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EXCLUSIVE!

## GREEN DAY

INSIDE AMERICAN IDIOT: THE DOCUMENTARY

6 MEGA POSTERS

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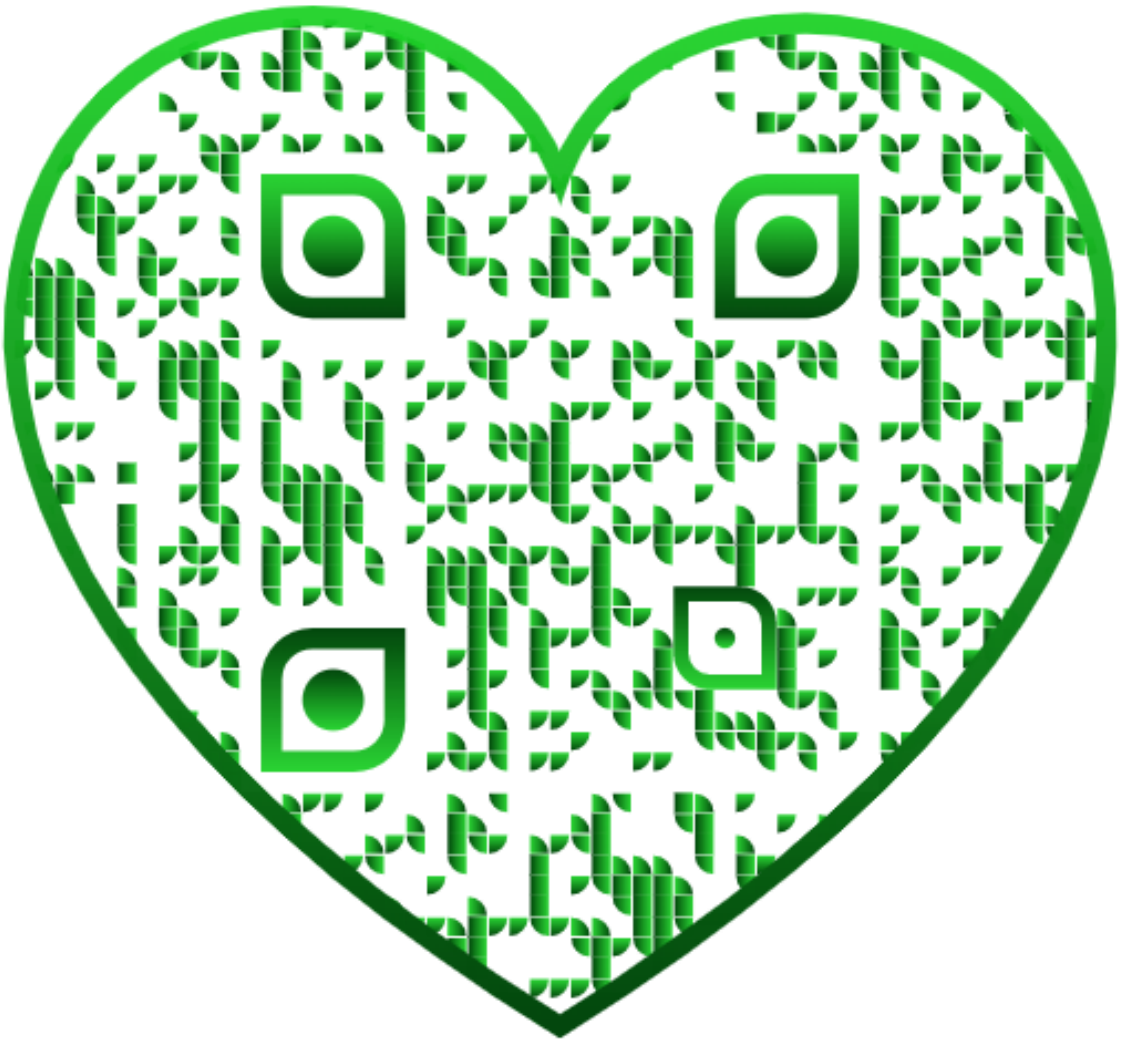
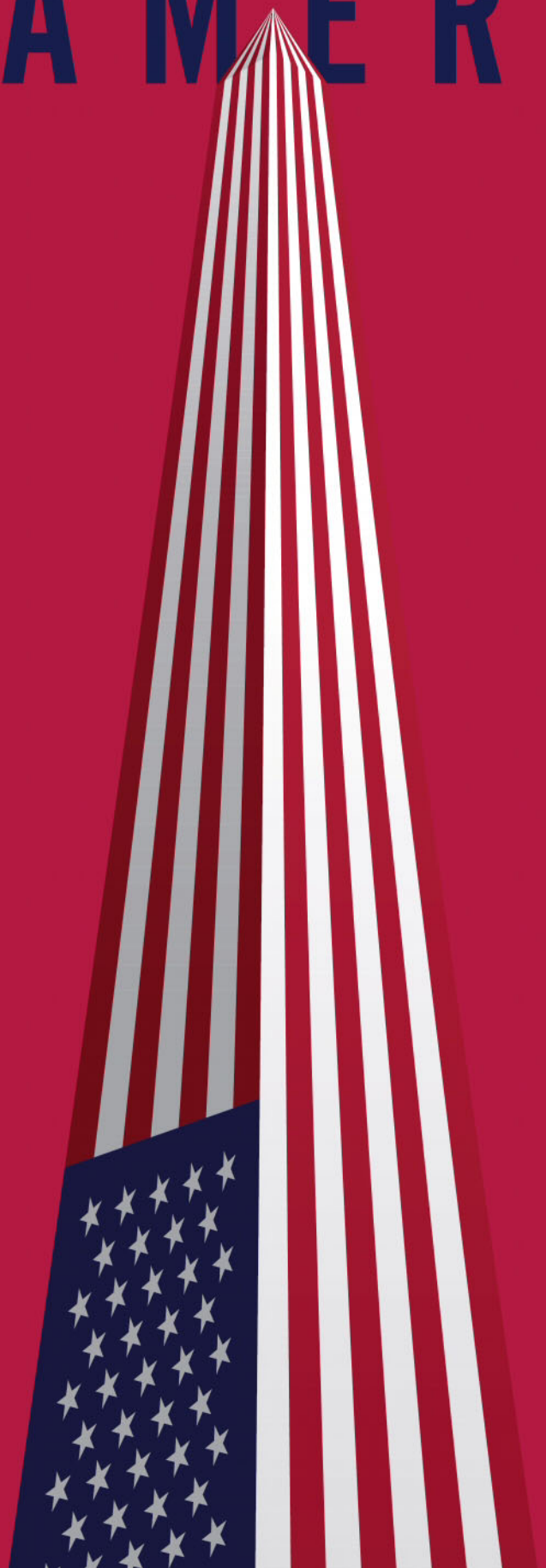


# RAMMSTEIN

# IN AMERIKA

## 25/9



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**DOCUMENTARY**
RAMMSTEIN IN AMERIKA

**MAKING OF**
THE ALBUM
LIEBE IST FÜR ALLE DA

"A HIGH-VOLTAGE ROCK CARNIVAL OF BRUTAL BEAUTY + SEXUAL SEDITION FROM ONE OF THE BIGGEST ACTS ON THE PLANET..."

# CONTENTS

ISSUE 1587 SEP 26, 2015

HELLO, READERS. Welcome to our yearly Rock Confessions issue, where we ask your favourite bands to bare their souls and tell us things they normally wouldn't tell anyone. How do we do this? That would be telling, but let's just say that there are some revelations coming your way! Starting with Mikey Chapman from Mallory Knox, gracing the cover for the first time ever. While I'm here, I'd just like to say bravo to Bring Me Their Horizon for their spirited (eh? Eh?) charge to the near summit of the charts. Much deserved, rockers! Enjoy the issue!

James
Editor

## PANIC! AT THE DISCO p44

**Brendon's new role in Downton Abbey was going well**

COVER PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

## NEWS

**ON THE COVER:** We chat to the director of **Green Day**'s Heart Like A Hand Grenade **(p4)** and go inside **Iron Maiden**'s The Book Of Souls with Bruce Dickinson… **(p8)**

## FEATURES

**ON THE COVER:** Our **Rock Confessions** issue sees **Mallory Knox** and more opening their hearts **(p16)**, before we hop into our DeLorean to revisit the birth of **Guns N' Roses** 30 years ago **(p36)**, and the making of **Panic! At The Disco**'s A Fever You Can't Sweat Out **(p44)**. Prefer to live in the now? Then **Deafheaven (p28)** and **Shinedown (p42)** are for you.

## POSTERS

**ON THE COVER: Fall Out Boy**, **Neck Deep**, **BABYMETAL** and more are ready for your wall **(p30)**!

## LIVES

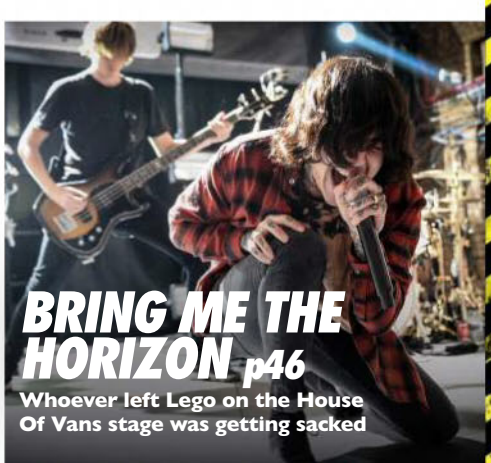
It's a Big-Bands-In-Small-Venues rollover! We've got **Bring Me The Horizon** in an old railway arch **(p46)**, and then we've got **Muse** in a venue that could be swallowed by their usual dressing rooms **(p48)**. Both were nuts, FYI…

## REVIEWS

Think you know **Parkway Drive**? Sike! You've never hear them this angry before. They're good at it **(p50)**. And we've got **Rammstein** taking us through Amerika **(p52)**, and **Jimmy Eat World** telling us about Bleed American **(p53)**!

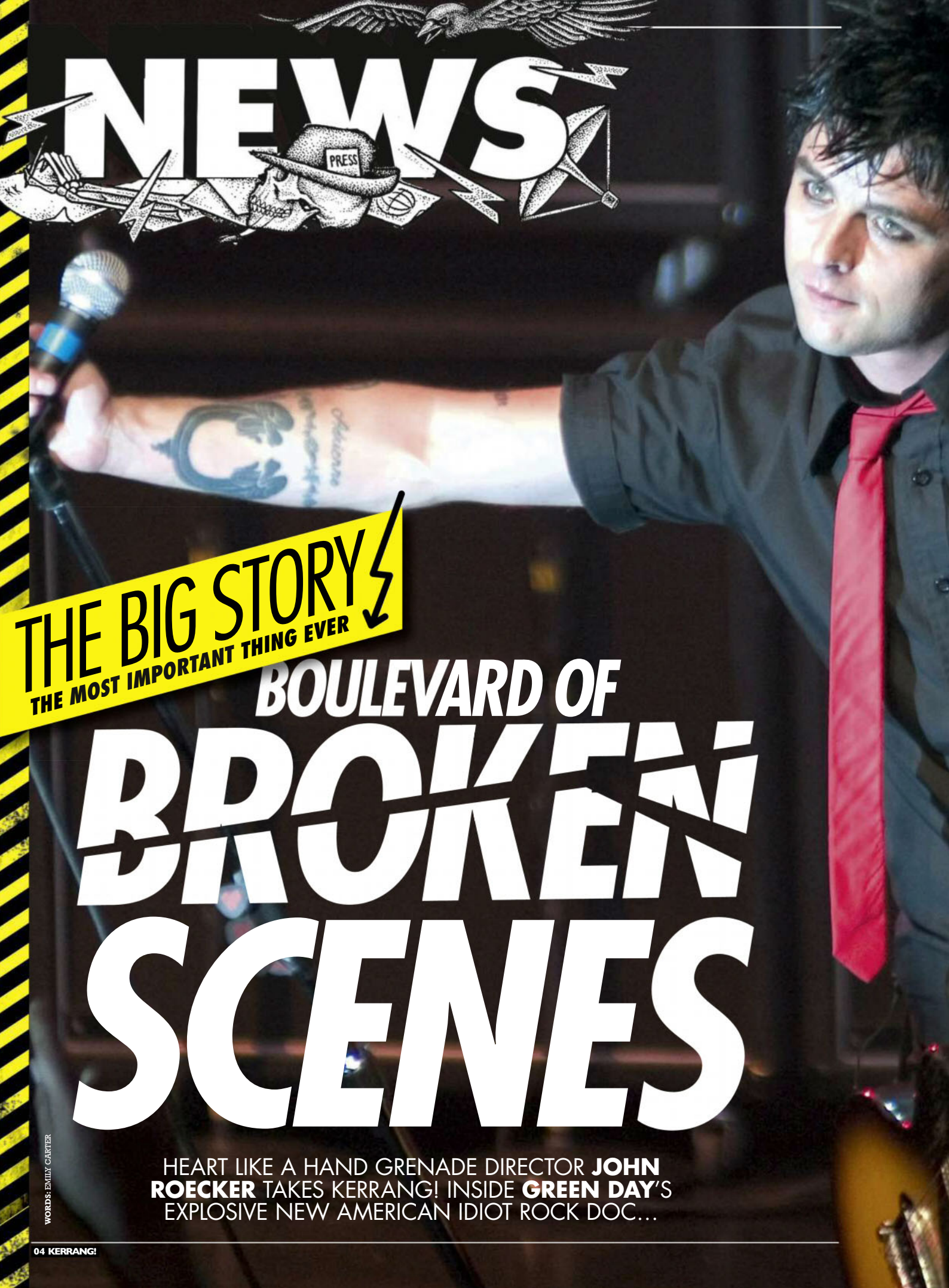
## GIGS

**Matt Tuck** tells us which of **Bullet For My Valentine** has the smelliest bum **(p56)**, while **HECK** take us on a tour of Nottingham **(p58)**.



## BRING ME THE HORIZON p46

**Whoever left Lego on the House Of Vans stage was getting sacked**



THE BIG STORY

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING EVER

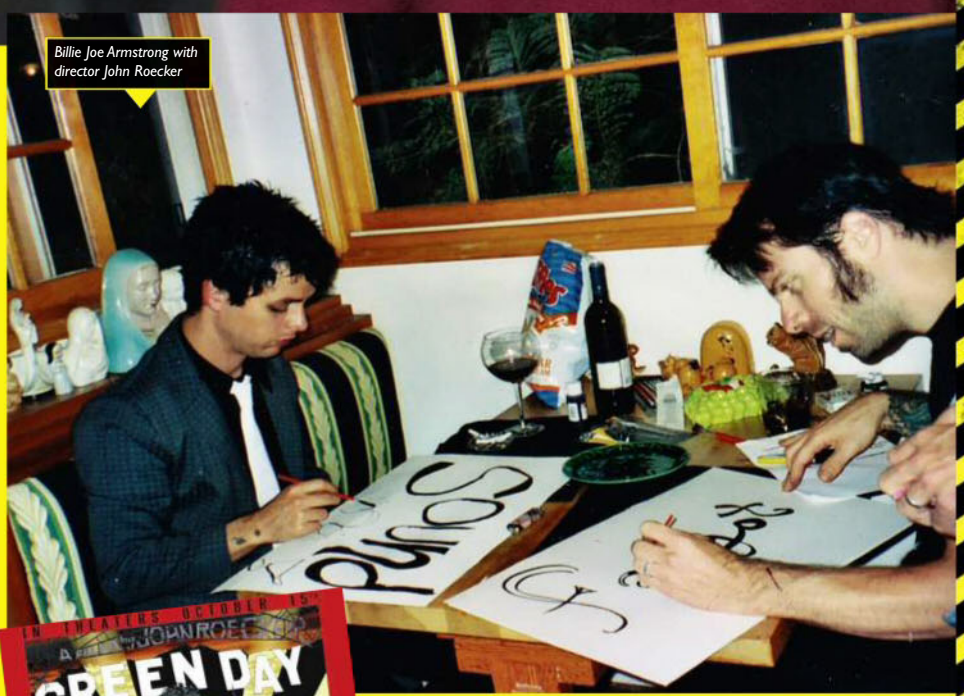
# BOULEVARD OF BROKEN SCENES

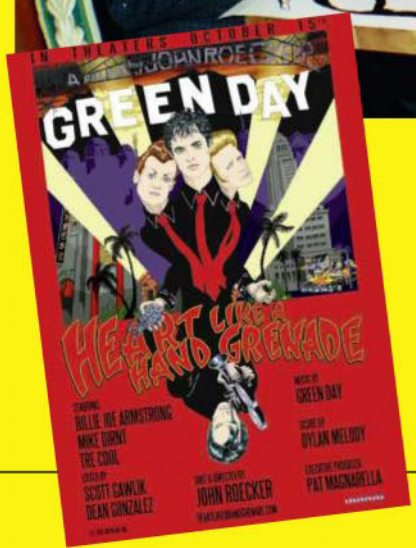
HEART LIKE A HAND GRENADE DIRECTOR **JOHN ROECKER** TAKES KERRANG! INSIDE **GREEN DAY**'S EXPLOSIVE NEW AMERICAN IDIOT ROCK DOC…

WORDS: EMILY CARTER

"American Idiot is going to be this big…"

Billie Joe Armstrong with director John Roecker






GOOD THINGS COME to those who wait. Case in point: Green Day, and their brand-new, fly-on-the-wall rock documentary, Heart Like A Hand Grenade. Eleven years after the Berkeley titans unleashed American Idiot, the band are getting set to unveil a film on the writing and recording of the album that changed everything – including rare concert footage from the time of release. To celebrate this whole new insight into Green Day's world, we grabbed a word with the man behind the lens, John Roecker, to talk American Idiot, punk rock and, um, nudity…

Billie Joe pays homage to Bob Dylan's Subterranean Homesick Blues

### HI, JOHN! SO, HOW DID YOU GET INTO DIRECTING INITIALLY?

"I'm a Los Angeles punk-rocker from the early days, and before the punk-rock revolution happened, we basically thought we couldn't do anything. But then punk rock came around and said to us, 'You can do whatever you want to do.' It said, 'You *can* pick up a camera,' or, 'You *can* pick up a microphone.' And so I thought, 'That's what I want to do.'"

### AND HOW DID YOU COME TO WORK WITH GREEN DAY?

"When I heard about American Idiot, I said to Billie Joe [Armstrong, vocals/guitar], 'Oh my god, you need to film this thing. It sounds amazing!' and he was like, 'No, I don't think it's worth it.' It's a lot of pressure to put on someone for them to be on camera filming a brand-new project, but he trusted me and said, 'Okay, bring your camera with you on Monday,' and nine months later, there we go!"

### LOOKING BACK ON THOSE NINE MONTHS, DO YOU REMEMBER THEM WELL, OR WAS IT JUST ONE BIG BLUR?

"No, I remember everything. Like an elephant! I was talking to Tré's [Cool, drum] tech when I got there [on the first day] because I had never been in on an album recording like that before, and I was like, 'So, how long is this going to take, man? Like, a month or something?' And he's like, 'Oh no! We'll be here for eight or nine months.' I was just like, 'What have I gotten myself into?' (*laughs*)."

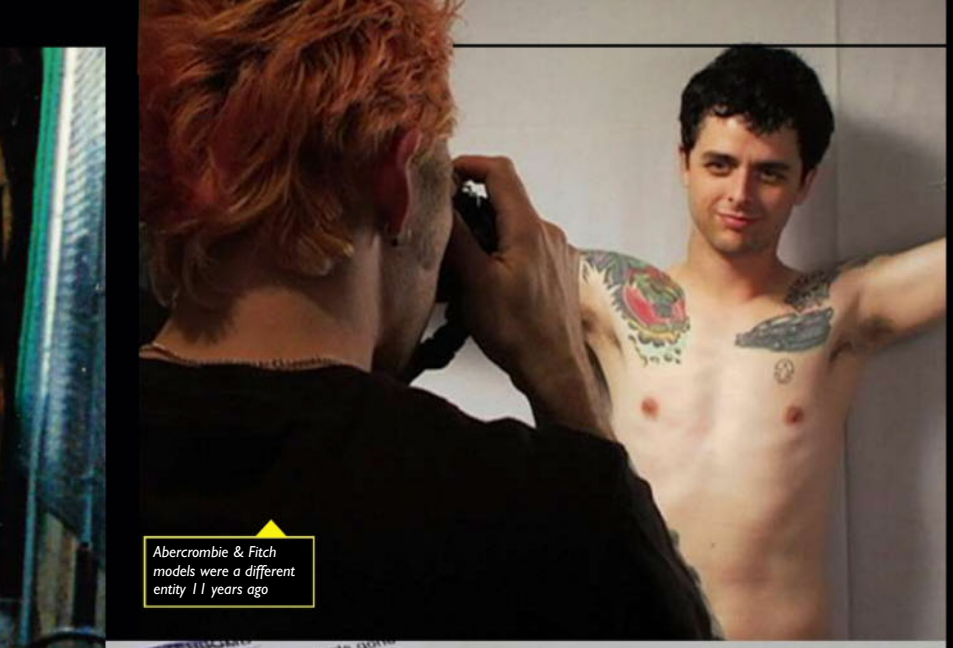
### HOW DID YOU APPROACH FILMING? THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME GREEN DAY HAD LET ANYONE RECORD THEM IN THE STUDIO...

"I was just happy when I was filming that I didn't bump into anything! I remember filming Billie Joe play Wake Me Up When September Ends on an acoustic guitar, and I needed to cough *so* badly, so I had to hold my breath because I was that close to him and couldn't make a sound (*laughs*). No-one has done anything like that before! No band allows that to happen. There was so much trust and mutual admiration – which was very nice!"

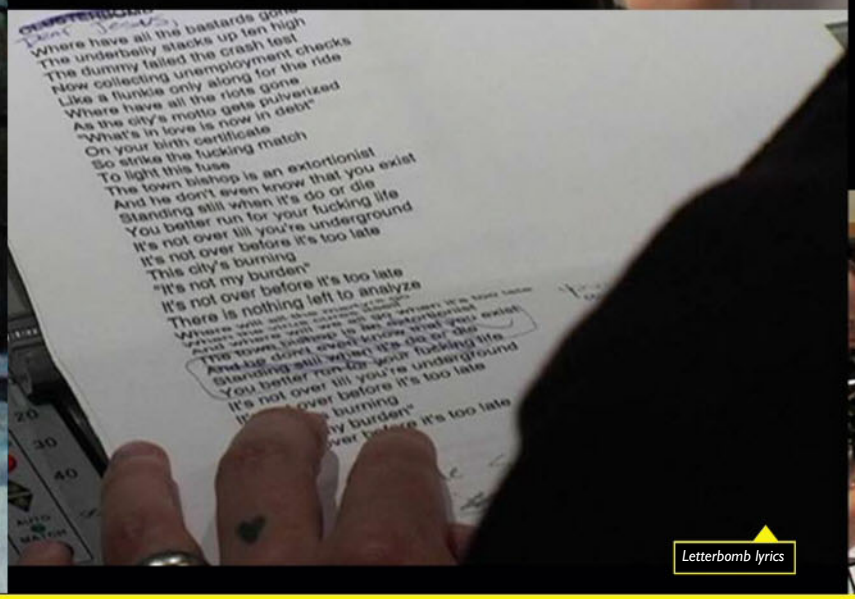
### DID YOU FEEL LIKE YOU WERE A PART OF SOMETHING SPECIAL AND THE BAND WERE ONTO SOMETHING BIG?

"To be honest, I had no idea. I thought it was remarkable, but I wasn't sure what other people would think – I never really trust the 'masses' (*laughs*). I remember being really afraid of the American Idiot title – I was worried that the name would mean that people weren't going to listen to the music. And me of all people said, 'Gosh, maybe you should change the name of the album...' and Billie Joe said, 'No.'"

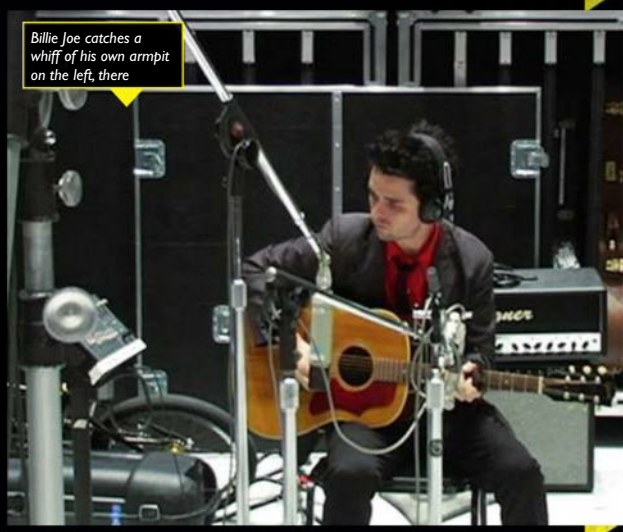
Green Day's new stencil business: a disaster



Abercrombie & Fitch models were a different entity 11 years ago



Letterbomb lyrics



Billie Joe catches a whiff of his own armpit on the left, there

Billie Joe and Tré used to hate it when Mike pretended he was James Bond on the job

### HOW DO YOU TURN FOOTAGE OF A BAND IN THE STUDIO INTO SOMETHING EXCITING AND WATCHABLE?

"The thing is, it's *very* exciting, because I got to get as close as you can be to three amazing musicians. I would film *everything* while I was in there – I'd even film a drum solo, it was *that* good. I was stuck in a studio with the best musicians in the world!"

### IN YOUR STATEMENT ABOUT THE DOCUMENTARY, YOU MENTIONED METALLICA'S SOME KIND OF MONSTER. HOW DID THAT FILM AFFECT YOU RECORDING GREEN DAY?

"When I saw that film, I was like, 'This is going to *destroy* Metallica.' I mean, it's a remarkable film, and it was *everywhere* at the time – on the cover of every magazine, including Kerrang!. And I was just like, 'This is *such* a different journey that I'm on with Green Day.' Because everyone was getting along; everyone was happy. That was how I wanted it to be – I'm not interested in a band acting up for the cameras. All I care about is finding out how these bands wrote their songs and how they recorded them. And *that's* what this movie is. It's writing, recording, band practice and the stage. It's the journey, and it's exactly what I wanted. I want to be inspired by bands. I want people to watch this and go, 'I can do that'."

### NO-ONE ENJOYS SEEING THEIR FAVOURITE BANDS FIGHTING…

"And I swear to you, if they were fighting at all, I would have filmed it! But they're not that type of band. Billie Joe is just a *very* nice guy, and that's what I like about him. If something bad happened, we could laugh about it. In fact, there was a fire in the studio on day one of recording, and he just laughed it off. He was like, 'Is that the worst thing that can happen? Okay then!'"

## "I WAS WITH THE BEST MUSICIANS IN THE WORLD!"

**JOHN ROECKER, DIRECTOR**

### WE'VE SEEN GREEN DAY IN THE STUDIO ON 2013'S ¡CUATRO! – THE MAKING OF ¡UNO!, ¡DOS! AND ¡TRÉ!. HOW DOES THIS DOCUMENTARY DIFFER FROM THAT?

"Well, there's shots of them naked (*laughs*). It's a very close and intimate thing. You've never seen them this close before – literally! The band recorded the album in order, so the guitar in American Idiot is first, and Whatshername is the last bass note that Mike plays. Who gets to have that kind of experience where they spend nine months with this amazing band? We didn't even think it was going to be so huge. They were literally just like, 'We're going to take a chance and do this… Fuck it. If it hits, then it hits, but if it doesn't, it doesn't.'"

### SO, WHAT MADE NOW THE TIME TO RELEASE THIS FILM?

"There's no logic to it. I don't know. It was just something like, 'Hey, let's do this now!' I spent so much time on it, went back through the whole 300 hours of footage to just make sure it's perfect. It feels natural, and that's how the film is, too. We didn't have any rules and we could basically do what we wanted. I had so much freedom, and that's the weird thing about it. I was very lucky, because it was just *us*, and not a bunch of suits telling us to take bits out or whatever. And if I could be an inspiration for someone to make a film or a record, then *that* is success to me. I'm the worst businessman in the world (*laughs*)."

### HOW DO YOU THINK THE FILM IS GOING TO BE RECEIVED, THEN?

"I have no idea! I just want people to see it. I want them to experience what I experienced – *that's* the goal for me. I don't care about making money. There's been so many great documentaries this year – the Kurt Cobain one [Montage Of Heck], Amy… It's *insane*. This is the year of music documentaries. With this one, there's no suicide or death or misery – it's the complete opposite. It's a happy ending!"

*Heart Like A Hand Grenade hits cinemas on October 15*

ISSUE 1587 SEP 26, 2015

THE FEED
THIS WEEK IN ROCK

Bruce Dickinson and Steve Harris: still reigning

# THE NUMBER (ONE) OF THE BEAST

## BRUCE DICKINSON TALKS CREATIVITY, KEEPING THINGS FRESH AND HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH STEVE HARRIS ON THE BOOK OF SOULS…

WORDS: JAMES McMAHON

IRON MAIDEN'S Bruce Dickinson has spoken about the changes in the band's creative process, and his new creative freedom within the band, that has contributed to new album The Book Of Souls charting at Number One in 24 countries (reported so far).

The British metal legends, who have unveiled the first leg of their 2016 World Tour, which will see the band perform in China for the first time, recently returned with the aforementioned album – their 16th studio release – which features numerous firsts for the band. As well as being their first double album, it's also the first to feature songs by Bruce bookending the album.

Kerrang! put to the frontman that there have been periods during Maiden's existence where it seemed extremely unlikely that might happen…

"I know," laughs Bruce. "That's one of the reasons I left [Bruce left the band on August 28, 1993, not returning until 2000]! But since I've come back it's been brilliant and, in hindsight, I don't regret a thing [about leaving]. For me, Chemical Wedding [Bruce's 1998 solo album], Accident Of Birth [1997] and even Skunkworks [1996], which I love, even though it was a very different record for me, it was all part of just fucking resetting the clock. I mean, I did an album a year. I was not exactly nonproductive, and Chemical Wedding and Tyranny Of Souls [2005] were going somewhere really cool. What I love is that we've kind of gone full-circle in that the opening track on The Book Of Souls is something that could have been on Tyranny or Chemical Wedding, you know…"

Bruce went on to propose that age has seen Maiden mainman Steve Harris become more honest in what he wants his art to say.

"I'm not gonna say he's gotten more mellow," says Bruce. "But he's always been very deep in some respects. Not conventional respects, but some respects. He's always had a great fascination for spirituality and you look on the early Maiden records and its all there; another life and what's beyond. But it's always been in the third person – he's never let people see it's close to home. And I think maybe that's what has changed in him. His lyrics are becoming very much more direct – he's saying this is something I feel, this is something that makes me afraid…"

Come back next week for more revelations from The Book Of Souls!

## FEARLESS VAMPIRE KILLERS GET BRUISED

**Fearless Vampire Killers** have announced a new mini-album, Bruises. The New Gravers are turning a new leaf with the release, which is set to drop on October 23. "Bruises comes from the heart," says co-vocalist Kier Kemp. "It's allowed us to explore a whole new side of the band, commenting on the darker side of human nature. Our ability as musicians and songwriters has developed, so it's pretty unanimous within the band that this is our best material yet!"

## EMMY-LONG

**Foo Fighters** have scooped two Emmys for their HBO Sonic Highways series – accompanying last year's album of the same name. The programme won two of its four nominations – earning awards in the Outstanding Sound Editing for Nonfiction Programming and Outstanding Sound Mixing for Nonfiction Programming categories, with both wins for the Seattle episode.

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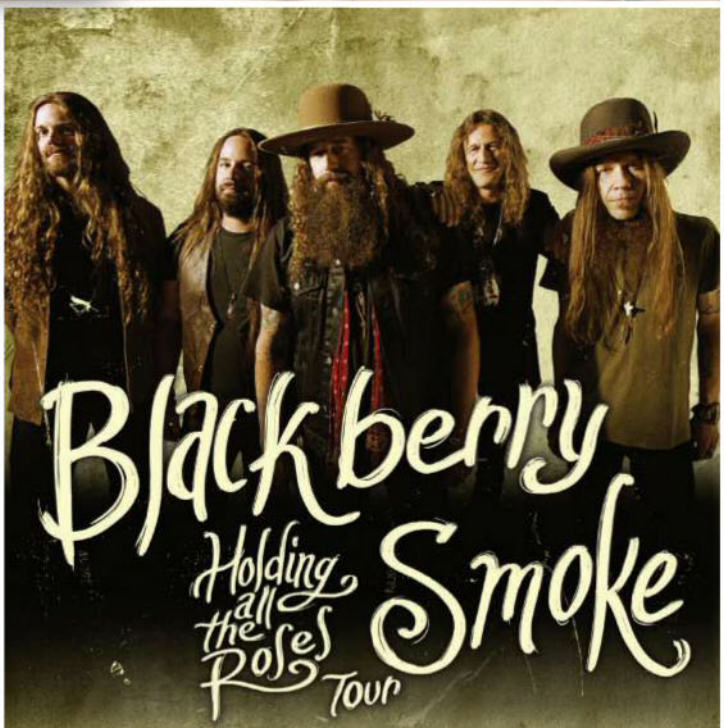

Blackberry Smoke
Holding all the Roses Tour

NOVEMBER 2015

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| TUE | 03 | BIRMINGHAM O2 ACADEMY |
| WED | 04 | SHEFFIELD O2 ACADEMY |
| THU | 05 | NEWCASTLE O2 ACADEMY |
| FRI | 06 | MANCHESTER ACADEMY |
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ISSUE 1587 SEP 26, 2015

# K!ONFIDENTIAL

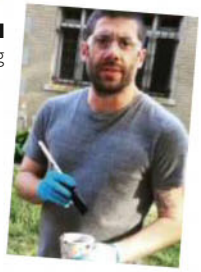
ROCK GOSSIP AND GIBBERISH

# CAN YOU FEEL MY CHART

Rock and metal went head-to-head in the album charts last week, with **Bring Me The Horizon** relentlessly battling it out with indie-rock giants **Stereophonics** for the top spot. That's The Spirit was pipped to the post by approx 1,300 combined sales – but Horizon still earned their highest-ever chart position at Number Two. "In this day and age it's so easy for people to download stuff illegally, so it's cool that our fans still appreciate owning a copy and actually supporting us," keyboardist Jordan Fish told us. You should be very proud of yourselves, guys. Congratulations!

## PAINT STUFF!

**Limp Bizkit**'s **Wes Borland** is a talented bloke. As well as being a dab-hand at guitar, Wes and his other half, **Queen Kwong**'s Carré Callaway, have landed their own DIY show, **American Rehab: Motor City**. If you fancy coming to fix up our office, mate, we'd be cool with that.

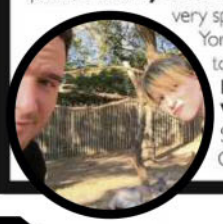


## FOR WHOM THE BEER TOLLS

While we're still wondering where the hell that long-awaited new **Metallica** album is, Papa Het and co have launched their own limited-edition branded Budweiser beer. Well, in Canada, anyway. It's no new record, but at least we can drown our sorrows in the meantime.

## SPOTTED

Have **Chad Gilbert** and **Hayley Williams** shaved their adorable pooch, Alf? Oh no, they just stopped by the zoo to hang out with a kangaroo. Phew. Looking cute, guys! Elsewhere in the big wide world of rock, **Metallica**'s **Rob Trujillo** was seen throwing the horns in Quebec with **Ray Burton** – much-missed bassist **Cliff Burton**'s dad. What a dude. Also across the pond, **Twenty One Pilots** brought out some very special guests in New York on their Blurryface tour, including **Halsey**, **Hoodie Allen** and **Walk The Moon**. So. Much. Awesomeness. On. One. Stage.



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# THE OFFICIAL KERRANG! ROCK CHART

THERE'S BEEN A *BIG* SHAKE UP, WITH NEW ENTRIES FROM **EAGLES OF DEATH METAL** AND **ONLY RIVALS**. ELSEWHERE, **BMTH** ARE NUMBER ONE FOR THE *BILLIONTH* WEEK…

| | WEEKS ON CHART | HIGHEST POSITION | ARTIST | TITLE | LABEL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 7 | 1 | BMTH | Throne | SONY MUSIC |
| 2 | 3 | 2 | ALL TIME LOW | Runaways | HOPELESS RECORDS |
| 3 | 7 | 2 | PVRIS | Fire | RISE RECORDS |
| 4 | 6 | 3 | NECK DEEP | Gold Steps | HOPELESS RECORDS |
| 5 | 7 | 5 | WE CAME AS ROMANS | The World I Used To Know | SPINEFARM RECORDS |
| 6 | 8 | 4 | DON BROCO | Superlove | SONY MUSIC |
| 7 | 1 | 7 | EAGLES OF DEATH METAL | Complexity | UNIVERSAL MUSIC ENTERPRISES |
| 8 | 8 | 8 | PANIC! AT THE DISCO | Hallelujah | FUELED BY RAMEN |
| 9 | 10 | 3 | BFMV | You Want A Battle? (Here's A War) | RCA RECORDS |
| 10 | 4 | 8 | POP EVIL | Footsteps | ENTERTAINMENT ONE |
| 11 | 1 | 11 | COHEED AND CAMBRIA | You Got Spirit, Kid | EVERYTHING EVIL RECORDS |
| 12 | 20 | 1 | FALL OUT BOY | Uma Thurman | ISLAND RECORDS |
| 13 | 9 | 6 | TWIN ATLANTIC | Fall Into The Party | RED BULL RECORDS |
| 14 | 14 | 1 | MUSE | Mercy | ISLAND RECORDS |
| 15 | 2 | 14 | CREEPER | The Honeymoon Suite | ROADRUNNER RECORDS |
| 16 | 9 | 3 | YOUNG GUNS | Rising Up | VIRGIN EMI |
| 17 | 3 | 17 | TRIVIUM | Silence In The Snow | ROADRUNNER RECORDS |
| 18 | 14 | 1 | NECK DEEP | Can't Kick Up The Roots | HOPELESS RECORDS |
| 19 | 1 | 19 | ONLY RIVALS | Replace // Exchange | SO RECORDINGS |
| 20 | 6 | 7 | 5 SECONDS OF SUMMER | She's Kinda Hot | CAPITOL RECORDS |



## MATT HEAFY, TRIVIUM

***TELL US ABOUT THE TITLE…***
"It's derived from a painting called Suikoden Yuki No Danmari, which translates into Silence In The Snow. It felt appropriate to have a Japanese-influenced title, as it was inspired by being on tour in Japan, seeing Heaven & Hell live and meeting Dio."

***THE SONG WAS WRITTEN IN THE SHOGUN ERA. WHY WAIT UNTIL NOW TO RELEASE IT?***
"It's very vocal-driven, which requires a bigger, better voice to carry it, and some musical restraint to make room for the vocal. We weren't there at the time, but we have grown into it and are ready now!"

***HOW IMPORTANT IS GROWTH TO TRIVIUM?***
"Progress and taking chances is of the utmost importance to us, and that results in us not making the same album twice. We will always make an attempt to progress with every recording we make. We are not here to recapture past glories but to forge ahead and leave our mark!"

## STEPHEN ARKINS, ONLY RIVALS

***WHAT IS REPLACE // EXCHANGE ABOUT?***
"Lyrically, it's probably our most honest track. It's about being in your mid-20s and that longing feeling of wanting things to be like the way they were when you were younger, when things were easier."

***HOW HAS THE RESPONSE BEEN?***
"Overwhelming. It gives us high hopes that people will enjoy the album!"

***DID YOU SEE IT BEING A SINGLE STRAIGHT AWAY?***
"No, I thought the chorus was too angry and fast! But you have to trust yourself and hope people get what you're trying to do."

## SEE/HEAR THE OFFICIAL KERRANG! ROCK CHART!

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Clockwise from bottom: Sammy Clifford, Danny Swift, Kieren Alder Alex Tobijansk and Kieran McVeigh

FRESH BLOOD
ROCK'S BREAKING BANDS

# WSTR

## LIVERPOOL POP-PUNK KIDS THAT WON'T STAY KNOCKED DOWN

**WORDS:** TOM SHEPHERD **PHOTOS:** CORBIN JAMES TATTAM

***TRUST US TO GET TO THE PARTY LATE!***

Sucks to be you. Especially as Liverpudlian pop-punkers WSTR – that's Waster for all you vowel fans – have a track record for throwing the loudest parties, the local council were even nice enough to write and say so. "We had one party that was really good, but we're not allowed anything musical in our house any more," says singer (and dubious Superman) Sammy Clifford. "We used the bass amp because someone broke the speakers. People were front-flipping on to the floor and the house was shaking."

***THEY KNOW HOW TO LIVE IT UP, THEN?***

You are correct. But it's proven costly in the past. Whilst a singer with his previous band, Day Will Come, Sammy took a trip to California to stay with some friends for his 20th birthday. One night in Santa Ana, having been downing an alcoholic drink since-banned in the states, he and some friends went for a walk and ended up in a pen with donkeys. "This is where it gets really random," explains Sammy. "I got on one of them and blacked out, and then it must have obviously bucked me off – I landed on my head and broke my neck. I woke up in hospital a few days later in Newport Beach."

***REAL-LIFE BUCKAROO! SO, WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?***

Sammy's band were forced to move on without him… "The recovery period was about a year," he says. "I had a wheelchair and my right arm was paralysed for six months because I had nerve damage. I couldn't do anything at all – I had to learn to walk again. It sounds like a sob story on X Factor, but it was heavy. I moved back home with my mum in Wrexham and stayed there for a couple of years. Then I got stuck in a rut."

**"I HAD TO LEARN TO WALK AGAIN!"**

***THIS DOESN'T SOUND VERY POP-PUNK.***

Wait for it! Determined to give music another go, Sammy – now 25 – moved to Liverpool, where he would meet the rest of WSTR. Together, the fivesome started crafting honest, feel-good belters – check out South Drive, which you can download free from Kerrang.com.

***SOUNDS RAD! WHAT'S IT ABOUT?***

"It's about me leaving Wrexham," says Sammy, "and fighting with myself to get out of the negative vibes." The group have just put out one of the finest pop-punk records of the year in their debut EP, SKRWD (that's Screwed) – not bad for a band that didn't exist this time last year. "We got thrown in the deep end," admits Sammy, "which is good, but it does apply loads of pressure." If he's feeling the same Pressure Hayley Williams did on All We Know Is Falling, they'll be headlining arenas before their beer goes flat.

*To hear them, get yourself over to* ***Kerrang.com***

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

**FOR FANS OF:** Neck Deep, The Story So Far, Knuckle Puck.
**HEAR:** South Drive at Kerrang.com!
**MORE INFO:** Facebook.com/WSTRband
**CHECK OUT:** A glimpse of the band's future in the video for Fair Weather.
**DON'T MISS:** WSTR and more killer new bands on Alex Baker's Fresh Blood show on Wednesdays at 10pm on K! Radio.

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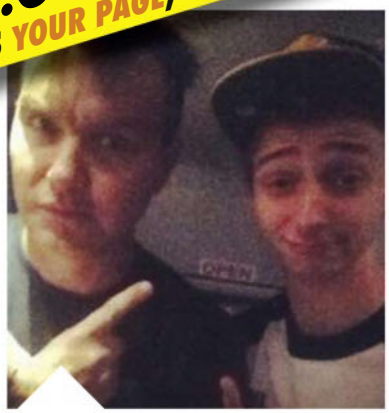
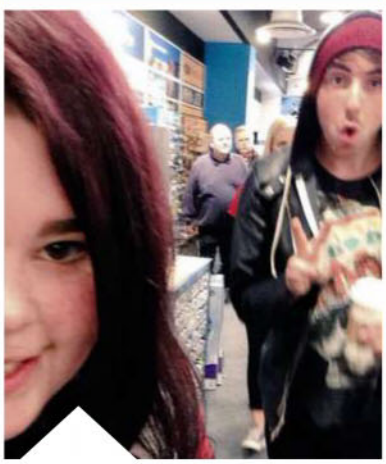


## ALL THE COOL THINGS

*"Met Mark Hoppus!" says* ***@Finn_H_15****. We think Mark wants you to open that cabinet behind you. Maybe thaaaaat's where new blink music is. Open it, Finn. OPEEEENNNNNN! IIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIITT!*

## TAKE THIS TO YOUR BASS

*"My pride and joy, a replica of Pete Wentz' bass guitar!" says* ***@Catrock2000****. That's wicked, that is. Pete, if ya fancy a night off in October…*



## ALL TIME ON-THE-GO

*"Took this as Alex was walking past, he called me sneaky…" whispers* ***@fueledbyzoe****. Couldn't have been that annoyed, Zoe, he's indicating to use the filter 'Valencia' there with his non-Starbucked hand.*

## WINNER!

### REACH OUT AND HUG ME

*"Myself and Marilyn Manson!" says* ***@kristinseering****. Now, Mazza once claimed I Don't Like The Hugs (But The Hugs Like Me) – or something like that – but we think he LOVES the hugs. Aaaand you win £250 to spend at Impericon.com. WICKED!*

## BILLIE JOE ARTSRONG

*"I drew the 21st Century Breakdown album cover," says* ***@hevviolet_****. We tried to think of 21 Puns for this caption, Violet, but we had a 21st Creative Breakdown. Still, this drawing is Tré Cool. We'll stop now. We don't wanna be, you know, your enemy…*

## STICKS AND BONES

*"I shook Chad Gilbert's hand after the New Found Glory set at Leeds Fest, and he gave me this cute Alf pick…" says* **Zoe-Leigh**. *We always did wonder how he got his sweet guitar licks!*

## KEEP ON PUSHING

*"Just resting my hands in a comfy place!" says* ***@Lilliemaenot****. Ahhh, the Rob Damiani Hot Water Pecs. They came in useful for us at R&L…*

NEXT WEEK

# WIN!

## VIP TICKETS TO FALL OUT BOY + MERCH!

Bumped into any rockstars at Five Guys? Maybe you had a look around the lion enclosure at London Zoo with Vic Fuentes? Perhaps you've painted Zakk Wylde and Kier Kemp on a log flume together? Whatever you wanna show us, if you've got a photo to prove it and wanna share it, all you need to do is tweet or Instagram using #Kommunity.

The best gets a pair of VIP tickets to see **Fall Out Boy** at London's SSE Arena Wembley on either October 11 or 12 *and* money to spend on merch. G'luck!.

*Try as he might, Mikey's temporary tattoos just wouldn't budge*

ROCK CONFESSIONS

# COMING CLEAN

KERRANG!'S CONFESSIONS ISSUE HAS BEEN INVITING ROCK'S GREAT AND GOOD TO WASH AWAY THEIR SINS FOR FOUR YEARS NOW. THIS TIME OUT, **FRANK IERO**, **VIC FUENTES**, **LYNN GUNN** AND MORE ARE ALL SET TO COME CLEAN ON THEIR PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE. BUT NOT BEFORE THIS WEEK'S COVER STAR, **MIKEY CHAPMAN**, HAS CLEANSED HIS SOUL…

**INTERVIEWS:** SAM COARE, JAMES HICKIE, NICK RUSKELL, AMIT SHARMA, PAUL TRAVERS, JENNYFER J. WALKER, IAN WINWOOD
**PHOTOS:** ANDY FORD, PAUL HARRIES, ANDREW LIPOVSKY, DAVE WILLIS

Mikey Chapman was five years old the first time he ever sinned.

"There was this little corner shop back home," laughs the now-25-year-old frontman. "They had this pick'n'mix counter there. I used to get a treat from my parents every now and then, but I wasn't that kid that got sweets every time we went out. So, on this one occasion, I stole a sweet. It was one of those cola bottles; the fizzy ones. I remember spending a week wracked with guilt, mortified, until I finally admitted it to my mum and dad. They were stern with me to make a point, but I think they were impressed with my honesty."

A life of crime, then, was never on the cards for the comic book-crazed kid. "My little sister's first word was 'Batman' because I was so obsessed," he smiles. "I was always more interested in the heroes than the villains. I always ended up pitying the villains. Instead of being selfish or self-absorbed as so many people are, these heroes were so selflessly good. And I think I've tried to be like that ever since."

In the 20 years since villainy was scrubbed off the cards, Mikey's made a fair fist of becoming a hero to Mallory Knox fans worldwide. And on the eve of their biggest headline tour – the 10-date Homecoming trek, which kicks off this week and culminates in their largest-ever show at London's famous Roundhouse – you can afford him a smile about that. Because that journey hasn't always been the easiest for Mikey and Mallory.

And so, before the frontman leads his charges into their ever-brighter future, he must first face his past, as our annual Confessions issue invites rock's biggest stars to come clean, once and for all…

Q/A

***HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ARRESTED?***

"I've been detained a couple of times, but never fully arrested. When I was at college, a group of us went to London to film a trailer for our pretend film that was gonna be part of our coursework. We came to London on child tickets, and got apprehended at the gate. And in our bag we had a camera, a toy gun and a couple of knives for props. This on a day that the police were having some kind of antiterrorism training day. So, there was about 80 policeman all just waiting for an opportunity to try out all these new skills. It was kind of ridiculous in hindsight, but at the time it was terrifying."

***WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE ABOUT YOURSELF IF YOU COULD?***

"I struggle a bit with anxiety… a lot of the time. That coincides with self-doubt issues. I'm very blessed that I have a fantastic life, but I wish that sometimes I had enough get-up-and-go or confidence or strength in my head or my heart to do the things that I wanna do."

***ARE THERE ANY SITUATIONS THAT SET OFF THAT ANXIETY?***

"I'm terrible with confrontation. I find myself getting very worked up and very shaky. Not through fear or rage, but just… I dunno, I just detest it. I got punched at this party once by this guy, and I snapped. I grabbed him and laid him on the floor, and I had one hand 'round his throat and my other fist in the air… and I hesitated. I thought, 'This isn't me.' As much as I wanted to hit him, I'm better than that; I don't need to do that. It's not cowardly, it's not being a pussy, it's not any of that shit; you don't have to be a blokey macho man just because other people or the telly or whatever tells you. You can be a good person who doesn't like to fight, and just wants to get on with the world. And by the time I'd contemplated all of this, he'd twatted me again."

***WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR WORST TRAIT?***

"My lack of drive. In my head I'm very driven; I conceptualise something, I love the idea of something, I wanna do something. But turning that into something physical or putting that into practice, I often find to be very hard. I find it to be very frustrating, kind of upsetting. There's times when we're writing things and I'll get quite down, quite upset. I see other people coming up with ideas and transforming them into a beautiful piece of music or a piece of art or something profound in writing and I guess it upsets me that I feel like I have so much to contribute."

***HAVE YOU GOT ANY PHOBIAS?***

"I'm pretty scared of heights. When I was a kid, I was climbing up this rock climbing wall one time and was right at the top. I was about to abseil down and, as I jumped back, my arm got caught in the pulley. I was left dangling by the skin of my wrist. I was about 11 or 12, so I think that ingrained a bit of a fear into me."

***WHAT'S THE MOST YOU'VE EVER DISAPPOINTED YOUR PARENTS?***

"There's been times when I've made my mum cry, times that maybe I've said something or done

something or even not wanted to do something that someone's put so much effort or time or thought into. I remember going away one time with my whole family when I was younger – my mum, dad, my younger brother and sister – and my dad had been excited for a long, long time. We were going to check out castles and really nice scenery and stuff. He was so excited about it, and all day we did nothing but moan and hinder the day. In the end he ended up going off and doing it by himself. I remember as he walked thinking, 'He didn't deserve that, he shouldn't be by himself, he should be enjoying it with his family and we're sat here ungrateful.' I think that was the first time I realised that I'd disappointed or let down someone that I really care about."

### WOULD YOU KILL SOMEONE IF YOU KNEW YOU COULD GET AWAY WITH IT?

"I don't think I would. I don't think I *could*. One side of me says there's a lot of moral scenarios where if one person was to die, maybe others would be saved. But, then again, who has the right to do that? Are you then just as bad as that person? I don't think I'd be able to live with myself."

### DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE DEATH PENALTY?

"See, this is where I struggle. I used to very much; I used to be staunchly for it. I've always had the opinion that I regard society as like a healthy body, and in all bodies you get infections and diseases and cancers, and they need to be eradicated. A lot of friends of mine that I've had this discussion with have persuaded me 'round. I believe in giving rehabilitation a chance. A person is a living, breathing, wondrous miracle of the universe. And do we have the right to shut off that experience for someone? I don't think so."

### ARE YOU QUITE A FORGIVING PERSON, THEN?

"Yeah, but it doesn't mean I'll trust you again. I think harbouring hate and grudges and the need for revenge creates a festering substance in you. It concerns me that certain people are like that their whole lives."

### IS THAT SOMETHING THAT'S ALWAYS BEEN A PART OF YOU, OR HAVE YOU GROWN TO BE THAT PERSON?

"I like to think that I've always been like that. I think it's ironic we say, 'You're being such a child,' yet kids at school fall out with each other every other day and by the end of break-time they're best friends again. It's only as we got older, I think we start holding those sort of things in. You know the terms 'man up' and 'grow up'? Why the hell do you wanna grow up from being a kid, when you had the ability to let go of things easier? We're told to be manly, we're told to be more of an adult, and I think that pushes you away from your identity. We're told to be more grown-up, but I don't know what the fuck that means any more."

### SO, WHAT DOES BEING A MAN MEAN TO YOU, THEN?

"To me, it's doing right by your duties, whether that's at home, socially or at work. Fulfilling what you've pledged to do. It's about being a fair human being, it's about accepting your flaws, it's accepting blame for things that you've done and accepting the consequences of your actions. But, more importantly, it's about thinking about what you're doing, and not just how it'll affect you."

### IF YOU COULD BRING ANY ONE PERSON BACK TO LIFE, WHO WOULD IT BE?

"I'd love to have spoken more to my grandfather, before he passed away. He died when I was mid-teens, and at that time I was just about girls and Xbox and the telly. And because of that I never learnt any of his stories. He was a military man and spent a lot of time overseas on real adventures. He must have been full of stories and I never took the time or I never realised he was gonna be gone before I could have those conversations."

### IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME TO ANY MOMENT AND APOLOGISE FOR SOMETHING THAT YOU DID, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

"I had a girlfriend not very long ago that helped me a lot. I had a couple of years as we were writing the latter end of [2013 album] Signals and the vast majority of [2014's] Asymmetry that I would consider to be the lowest of my life. They were fantastic in a lot of ways, but for me, personally, they were very dark thoughts and contemplations and things that I would never usually think. And my girlfriend was the opposite of that. She'd been through some terrible things and still managed to be the most rational, happy, adventurous person. She really helped me realise that I could deal with this shit. Then, when I was away on tour, I found a way in my million-miles-an-hour brain to end it with her via the phone. It was cowardly and very unjust for how much she had really helped me. I should have done right by that and I should have honoured that."

*Mikey's attempts at camouflage were half-hearted at best*

### WHAT IN LIFE ARE YOU MOST AFRAID OF?

"That I won't get to do enough and experience enough before it's my time. I'm not afraid of dying; I'm just afraid of what I'm gonna miss when I do die. A lot of people say, 'How could anyone want to live forever?' and I'm like, 'I'd love to live forever.'"

### EVEN AS PEOPLE AROUND YOU PASSED AWAY?

"Yeah, because those people are gonna pass anyway. As those people pass on, I'd be able to help them through and ease them into their passing. Of course it would be sad and it would be lonely, but I think the only way you could ever live forever is if you were happy within yourself. So, I suppose I have to put that down as a disclaimer. I would love to live forever if by that point I was happy in the skin I'm in."

### ARE YOU HAPPY IN THE SKIN YOU'RE IN NOW?

"I'm working on it. There's a lot of things I strive to be that I'm not yet. That's both an issue of experience, an issue of confidence and an issue of knowledge, but I'm always striving to be better. I know I'm not perfect and I know I don't always necessarily do the right thing, and I don't always remain as free from hurting other people as I want to be. But I wanna move towards that by the time I'm old and grey. I'd like to say I'd done everything in my power to be a better person."

### HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED QUITTING MALLORY KNOX?

"I've considered it, but it's only ever been 'in theory'. It's more of a question, like, 'If I left today, what would I do?' I have so many dreams in my life that I wanna achieve, and the band is the biggest in terms of my career, but I have so many other passions. I wanna see the world. I wanna climb some mountains. I wanna go and explore jungles and go on some real adventures. I also want to make sure that if I have a family, that they don't struggle. We all have dreams that we wanna fulfil and I don't like the fact that mine might inhibit that. I've always said that I think when the band begins to wind down, then that's when I'd contemplate having a family."

### WITH THAT IN MIND, DO YOU THINK YOU'D BE A GOOD DAD?

"If I've learnt as much from my dad as I believe I have, yeah, I do. I'm not saying that I'd be the best, but I'd certainly give it a go. I don't know when it will be, I don't know if it will ever happen, but I'm very excited for that day that I can have that in my life, for sure."

### IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME, WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUR YOUNGER SELF?

"I'd tell myself to stop worrying about what other people think. It's something I got hung up on a long time ago. I don't mean in the sense that I wanna stop caring what people think, or that I'm gonna be a dick to everyone. But I spent a lot of time adhering to what other people would say about me, and the way I looked or the music I'd listen to or the fact that I wasn't quite so macho. All those things made me believe that I was doing something wrong, that I was being the wrong kind of man. I would say to myself that you are exactly the person the universe around you commands you or tells you to be."

### ON THE SUBJECT OF BELIEFS, DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD OR A HIGHER POWER?

"I believe in a higher power. I think too much nowadays we find ourselves with a deficit of some kind; we find ourselves addicted to things, whether it be drink, drugs, possessions, caffeine or TV. Whatever it is, we have these things we latch onto for fulfilment. I comfort eat. I find myself on a stressful day just eating absolute shit. I've had my ups and downs with drink and… [*pauses*] with drink, yeah. It was definitely something I used to fill a gap, and I think a lot of people feel like something is missing within them. And I truly believe that's a lack of spirituality. I don't mean God or whatever. Spirituality to me is about the feeling of something greater than yourself and a feeling of humility and being happy."

**MALLORY KNOX TOUR THE UK THIS WEEK – SEE THE GIG GUIDE FOR INFO**

*Sorry, did we not tell you it was an ice bath, Mikey?*

"I SPENT A LOT OF TIME

# HUNG UP

ON WHAT

# PEOPLE THOUGHT ABOUT ME"

MIKEY CHAPMAN

# VIC Fuentes

## Pierce The Veil

HE'S BEEN ON BOTH SIDES OF RELATIONSHIP SIN, BUT DOES **VIC**'S SALVATION LIE IN NOT BREAKING UP WITH SOMEONE BY TEXT?

***IF YOU'RE WRONGED, DO YOU SEEK REVENGE OR TURN THE OTHER CHEEK?***

"It would depend on who it was and what they'd done to wrong me, but I've never been one to seek revenge. I think, in some situations, it can weigh heavily on your conscience – it can become obsessive and it can feel worse than whatever was originally done to you. The exception is if someone pranks you on tour – we're connoisseurs of that kind of thing. The worst one that was done to me was when we were touring with letlive.. I did this part where I went into the crowd and sang from there before crowd-surfing my way back to the stage. This time, the letlive. guys caught me and took me outside the venue and dumped me in the street. I'm still planning my revenge for that one."

***WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE ABOUT YOURSELF IF YOU COULD?***

"I'm always obsessed by people who are 100 per cent driven by their emotions. People who can be brought to tears really easily or fall in love at the drop of a hat. I've always been really envious of that because I have a tendency to overanalyse things. I think when people live by raw emotion, it's a really beautiful thing. I wish I could do that more. It might be more dangerous, but I think you'd also just feel more alive."

***WHAT ARE YOU MOST AFRAID OF?***

"People that are close to me dying. My brother, my girlfriend, my parents – they're so central to my life that I don't know what I'd do without them."

***WHAT DO YOU THINK OTHERS CONSIDER YOUR BEST AND WORST TRAITS?***

"I think my most positive trait is that I always try to be positive when it comes to other people and situations. I try to see the best in everything and that can sometimes lead to me leaping blindly into things, or thinking that people are nicer and kinder than they actually are. As for the worst, I think the way I work can be a little obsessive. It alienates me from a lot of people. If I didn't have a strong core of people around me, that could have been a real problem in my life."

***WHO OR WHAT DO YOU MISS MOST WHEN YOU'RE ON TOUR?***

"Mexican food. I also miss my girlfriend and my family and my friends, too, of course – maybe I should have mentioned them first. But you shouldn't even say the B-word – that's 'burrito' – around us when we're on tour, because it's too heartbreaking. Tex-Mex-style food doesn't count – it has to be the real thing, and it's surprisingly difficult to find."

***IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME, WOULD YOU GIVE ANY ADVICE TO YOUR YOUNGER SELF?***

"'Hold on.' If you can get through what you have to get through to get to wherever you're going, that's what makes you who you are. We all have to live through painful things and it's really important to not give up. Let time take you past those experiences that you thought at the time you would never be able to live through."

***WHO WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO BREAK YOUR HEART?***

"There was this girl I was seeing in LA who just stopped talking to me for no reason I ever found out about. She just upped and left, and I never saw her again. A lot of our first record [2007's A Flair For The Dramatic] was about her. It was even more heartbreaking because I didn't know what I'd done wrong. I never did get that closure. I found out she was alive, at least, but I never figured it out."

***WHAT'S THE WORST WAY YOU'VE EVER DUMPED SOMEONE?***

"I've had to dump a girl before for reasons that I couldn't really explain to her. I left things really poorly. I wasn't completely truthful about my reasons, because that would have broken her heart even

# CODY CARSON
## SET IT OFF

**CODY**'S STICKY FINGERED PAST HELPED HIM SURVIVE – AND KEPT HIS FEET WARM, AT LEAST...

"I'M AFRAID OF **MY FAMILY** DYING"
VIC FUENTES

worse. My intentions weren't malicious and at least it was face-to-face. I've never ditched anyone by text, or anything. That's a cowardly move."

***ARE YOUR PARENTS PROUD OF WHAT YOU DO?***
"Absolutely, they're our biggest fans. My dad hardly knows how to use a computer but he goes on YouTube and searches for videos of the band. Sometimes I think that's all he does – he watches every show that people put up there. He can pretty much follow us on tour because people post things from every city. He's always calling me with comments about the show, telling me I should turn up my guitar or do little things onstage."

***HAVE YOU EVER SNEAKED PAST FANS WHO WERE WAITING TO SEE YOU?***
"Only if we have to be somewhere and we genuinely have no time to stop. Sometimes that does happen, but in most situations we're always happy to stop and speak to everyone who wants to meet us."

***HAVE YOU EVER USED THE 'DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?' LINE?***
"No. I really wouldn't feel comfortable even trying. I have never used that line – not even when letlive. carried me outside the venue that time..."

Q/A ***HAVE YOU EVER GOTTEN AWAY WITH A CRIME?***
"When the band first started, we had no money whatsoever, so if we needed something from Walmart, we would just kind of take it. We didn't steal anything big – just socks, underwear and I stole condoms once. We're not thieves, we were just poor as fuck and did it to survive."

***WHO IS THE LAST PERSON THAT YOU FOUGHT WITH?***
"If I ever have an issue with somebody, I pull them aside and I talk to them. The only time I'll ever do it is if someone's being a blatant dick and needs to be put in their place. I almost yelled at a mom on Warped Tour. We were doing this signing and there was a circle-pit going on, so they had to try and organise the line, and she just walked up to the person taking pictures and started yelling in her *face*. I don't have any tolerance for people who are rude and ignorant like that, so I started walking towards her and my tour manager had to pull me back."

"WE USED TO **STEAL** TO SURVIVE"
CODY CARSON

***WHAT ONE THING WOULD YOU CHANGE ABOUT YOURSELF IF YOU COULD?***
"I'd make myself six-feet tall. I have friends that are like, 'He has to be six foot, he has to have this much money and he has to be able to make all the decisions,' and it's like, 'Yo! This isn't a movie (*laughs*)! You don't get to date Gerard Butler or Ryan Gosling. It doesn't work that way!' I'm okay being 5'9", it would just be cool to be taller."

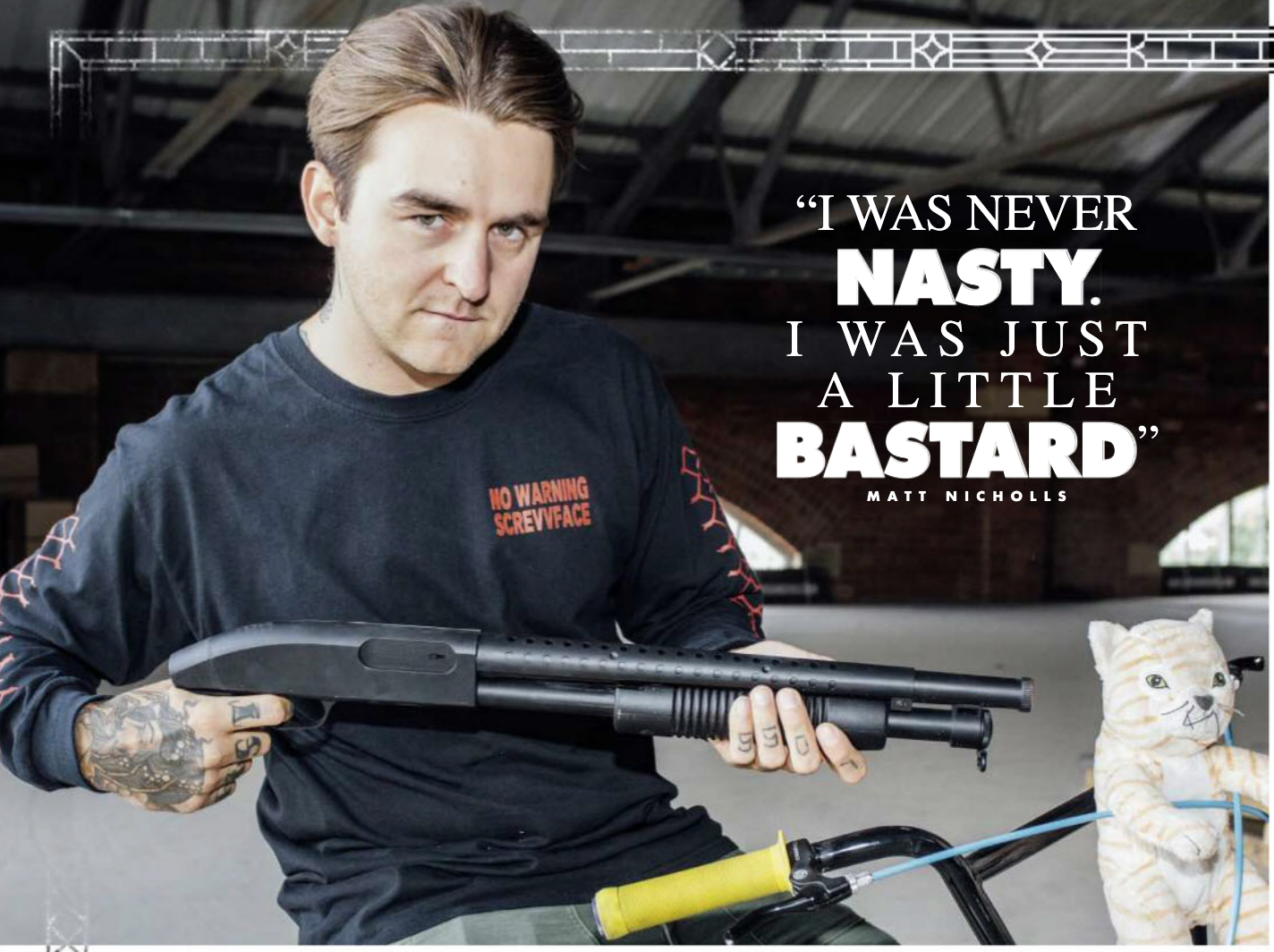
***WHAT DO YOU THINK OTHERS CONSIDER YOUR BEST AND WORST TRAITS?***
"The best part would probably be my work ethic. If I wanna get something done, I make sure I get it done. But I'd say along with that comes my worst trait, which is my stubbornness. I'm a very stubborn person – once I have my heart set on something a certain way, I like to see it through that exact way."

***WHO OR WHAT DO YOU MISS ON TOUR?***
"I miss my mom and my sister and my dogs the most. I have Daisy and we just adopted a dog named Odie, and they look like they're brother and sister. The name Odie was already given to him and they were like, 'You can change his name if you want – he's six.' I was like, 'So, he's *35* [in human years]?' If I was 35 and someone was like, 'Hey, now you're Mark!' I'd be like, 'You can fuck off.'"

***IF YOU'RE WRONGED, DO YOU SEEK REVENGE OR TURN THE OTHER CHEEK?***
"I put it in a song. Songwriting's my cathartic outlet and that's my chance to get them back and it's gonna be a permanent reminder to them of how shitty they were. I don't write the song in the hope they'll hear it; I write the song because I'm very angry at this person, and if I don't get it out, I'll have an anger outburst, and I'd rather not bottle it up."

***WHO WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO BREAK YOUR HEART?***
"Her name was Brittney, and we have an entire EP written about her [2009's Calm Before The Storm]. She was an awful person to me. When we started dating, I asked her if she'd ever cheated on anybody and she said no. The relationship boiled down to the end and we were lying in bed and she was like, 'We have to break up...' and she admitted she cheated on me. When I asked, 'Have you ever cheated on anyone else before?' her answer was, 'Every boyfriend I've ever had.' It was a rough break-up – I had nightmares about it. It took me at least a year to get completely over her."

***WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU BROKE UP WITH SOMEONE?***
"Last time I was in the UK. A situation went down where she broke my trust and I just contacted her and was like, 'I know this went down and because of that I don't wanna continue this, so we can be friends but I won't feel comfortable pursuing a relationship.' I'm 26 years old – I'm not gonna date for fun. If I'm dating anybody, they better end up being my wife, so if I'm already having troubles with somebody when it's not even been made official yet, then that's not gonna work out for me. I've never been a dick about break-ups – I don't break-up with people unless I have a good reason."




"I WAS NEVER **NASTY.** I WAS JUST A LITTLE **BASTARD**"

MATT NICHOLLS

# •MATT• Nicholls

## BRING ME THE HORIZON

**THE ONE BIT OF ADVICE STICKSMAN MATT WOULD TELL HIS YOUNGER SELF? LEARN THE DRUMS...**

Q/A

***HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ARRESTED?***

"Yeah. For aiding and abetting. I think it was Year 10 – that's the second to last year, innit? – and me and my skater mates used to get bullied by these kids in the year above. I was mates with everyone in my year, all the skaters and the hard kids. One of the hard kids came up to me one day and said, 'Is that older kid still giving you grief?' and went and punched him in the face. We both ended up getting arrested for it because this guy said I was kicking him when he was on the floor. I wasn't, by the way."

***HAVE YOU EVER HAD A HAIRCUT THAT'S MADE YOU UPSET?***

"Loads – I've got one now! And it's not like I even do anything weird with my hair that you look back at and go, 'Yeah, that's shit.' It just always looks crap. It does my head in. I've got really thick, straight hair, so I can't do anything with it. It just looks shit all the fucking time, man."

***WHAT WOULD OTHERS SAY IS YOUR MOST ANNOYING HABIT?***

"I don't know. I've probably got loads, but nobody's ever called me out on them. Probably farting, or something like that. My girlfriend would probably say farting, actually. And I wouldn't blame her. I imagine the rest of the band would agree, to be honest."

***WOULD YOU KILL SOMEONE IF YOU KNEW YOU COULD GET AWAY WITH IT?***

"Yeah – this kid who used to live at the end of my street. He used to do my fucking head in. I always thought. 'I'd kill you if I could.' That was when I was about six years old! I hated him. But yeah, I could do it, easy. There's probably a load of people I wouldn't mind killing. If I had a free pass, I'd walk around killing people all the time!"

***DO YOU HAVE ANY PHOBIAS?***

"Spiders. I've hated them forever – ever since I was a kid. I still can't get on with them now. I hate them. I have to pick them up in our flat because my girlfriend hates them as well. We live in the roof of an old hospital, so we get them all the time – massive ones an' all. And she won't go anywhere near them, which means if she sees one, it's me who has to get rid of it. I've never tried to get over it by holding a tarantula or anything. I wouldn't even hold a tiny house one. No way. Not doing that."

***WHAT'S THE WORST WAY THAT YOU'VE EVER DUMPED SOMEBODY?***

"Maybe my second-ever girlfriend. It was always on and off. Back in the early days when the band was on tour, I woke up on the bus in Birmingham one morning, and she was meant to be coming out. But I was looking at my bed on the bus, and all I could think was, 'I really don't want to share my bunk.' So, I just rang her up and finished with her there and then. True story."

***WHAT FICTIONAL CHARACTER DO YOU MOST IDENTIFY WITH?***

"Bart Simpson. Oli [Sykes, BMTH frontman] used to call me 'Rotherham's answer to Bart Simpson'. I used to go and tag walls, skateboard around, get in trouble, just being a little bastard. I used to get stopped by the police loads – for stuff like kicking footballs at shops, just being a little arsehole, really. But it was like Bart Simpson – I was never nasty, I was just a little bastard."

***WHAT'S YOUR BIGGEST REGRET?***

"I don't regret owt. I just do whatever, but I don't have something where I wake up every day thinking, 'Oh shit, I wish I hadn't done that.'"

***IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME AND GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF A PIECE OF ADVICE, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?***

"'Learn to play the drums.' I think I'd be pretty stoked that I was talking to myself from the future, for a start. But I don't know what I'd say. Oh! I know. 'Don't piss in the fridge.' We all went out on my 25th birthday in America, and they have this drink called The Four Horsemen that we were drinking. It's shots of whiskey and tequila, and you neck it. Anyway, everyone was sat in the lounge on the bus, and I got up, opened the fridge in front of everyone and just pissed in it. Another time, I sat in the fridge, and pissed out of it. So, yeah, I'd go back and tell me not to do that."

# BECCA MACINTYRE

## MARMOZETS

**BECCA**'S APPROACH TO SINNERS? FORGIVE AND FORGET – OR THROW A TELLY AT THEM…

"I NEARLY GOT **ARRESTED** FOR THROWING A TV AT SOMEONE"

BECCA MACINTYRE

***WHO'S THE LAST PERSON YOU FOUGHT WITH?***

"Probably my brother Sam [Marmozets guitarist]. Sometimes we get a little aggravated with each other and we'll have a bit of a shout, but then two minutes later he'll come over and smile at me and I'll just laugh. We don't ever let anything build up and get blown out of proportion – but I do sometimes overreact. I'm getting better at that, though, and each day I'm getting stronger."

***WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE ABOUT YOURSELF IF YOU COULD?***

"I'm pretty happy with who I am, but I'd like some new teeth. I'd like to have that stupid Hollywood smile and piss everyone else off with it! My teeth are all crooked, I smoke, and I haven't been to the dentist in years, so they're a mess. Thing is, I love to smile, but I'm really self-conscious about my teeth, which is why there's so many moody pictures of me."

***WHAT DO YOU THINK OTHERS CONSIDER YOUR BEST AND WORST TRAITS?***

"When I get a little bit too drunk I think I'm right all the time and get a bit angry about things, which they'd think is my worst trait. But, on the positive side, I think they all know I have a big heart. I see everyone as the same. I just want to be the best I can be."

***WHAT DO YOU MISS MOST WHEN YOU'RE ON TOUR?***

"My family. My little brothers and sisters and my mum and stepdad. I think about them every day. You miss out on so much when you're on the road all the time, but they know why we're doing this and think it's worth it. Everything I do is ultimately for my family. My mum's been amazing the whole time we've been doing the band, and the only reason I'd like to be able to make a lot of money doing this is so I can give it to her and say thank you for everything she's done for me."

***WHO WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO BREAK YOUR HEART?***

"I've never really had my heart broken – I'm usually the one to get out before something bad happens, and I think I'm pretty good at dealing with it. When it comes to relationships, it is what it is – you mess around with me and you're not going to hear from me again. That's how I roll, but sometimes I have gotten hurt… but then I tend to hurt them back, so I'm just as bad, really. But I'm single right now and feel fucking great."

***IF YOU ARE WRONGED, DO YOU SEEK REVENGE OR TURN THE OTHER CHEEK?***

"I always forgive and forget. I don't actually understand why people are driven to go out and get revenge. If someone kills one of my family members, I would literally go up to that person and forgive them, for their sake. I can't change the fact the person I love is gone, but I will always forgive that person. If you hold onto shit, you're going to be living a life of darkness. You're just going to eat yourself away from the inside."

***HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ARRESTED?***

"*Nearly*, for fighting. I was out with a bunch of people and this girl had apparently already attacked three people that night before me, and I got her away from me, and then her cousin – this *guy* – decided to punch me in the face a couple of times. What almost got *me* arrested was that I picked up a TV and threw it at him… I don't know why there was a TV sitting out in the street in the middle of the night, but it may well have saved my life!"

***WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU WERE DEPRESSED?***

"Every other day I get a bit down about something, but I bounce back. I suffered from depression at a young age, and I got put on tablets for it, but in the last three years I've come such a long way. I would stay in my room for days and not come out, and one day I literally took the tablets and threw them in the bin and said, 'I'm not suffering from this any more.' I could have gone down a completely different path, but this one – the better one – is the one I chose."

***HAVE YOU EVER USED THE 'DON'T YOU KNOW WHO I AM?' LINE?***

"Never. I've met a lot of people with big egos, but I always bring them down to the ground. That's just who I am, and people who act like that and just want to be famous, I'll never understand. I only want to be around people who are going to encourage me and be there for me – as I want to be for them – rather than just thinking of themselves."

***WHAT'S YOUR BIGGEST REGRET?***

"I don't have *any* regrets. I really don't. There are some things I can look back on and think, 'Why the *fuck* did I do that?' But you can't dwell on shit; you've just got to get on with it, and none of those things stay with me. My brothers have the same sort of attitude. It's hard to regret anything when you're around brilliant people like that."

# LYNN GUNN PVRIS

## ROCK'S NEXT GREAT SUPERSTAR IS WRACKED WITH A GUILTY CONSCIENCE...

Q/A ***WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE ABOUT YOURSELF IF YOU COULD?***

"I guess I would like to be a bit more outgoing and social, because I'm kinda introverted and quiet. I've pretty much always been that way. When I was in school, on all my report cards it would say, 'Is your daughter *okay?*' and my mom would be like, 'Yeah, she's just quiet.' Weirdly, I was actually pretty good at classroom presentations, and I can usually make friends quite easily. I really feel like I'm a walking contradiction sometimes."

***WHAT DO YOU THINK OTHERS CONSIDER YOUR WORST TRAIT?***

"I can get hot-headed pretty quickly. I'm a super-OCD neat freak, so when things are messy I get really mad and frustrated, or if something isn't going the way it's planned, I can get flustered easily. I'm just very particular when it comes to things being the way I want them. And yeah, living in a van with a bunch of people who don't share my same obsessiveness on these points can be really hard for someone like me!"

***HAVE YOU EVER SNEAKED PAST FANS WHO WERE WAITING TO SEE YOU?***

"I've had to do it a couple of times and it hurts my heart. If we have to go to do press or something at a certain time and we're in a hurry, we'll have to pass right by these kids that might have been waiting hours to say 'Hey'. I would never keep my head down and pretend to not see them, though, I'd feel too bad."

***DO YOU HAVE ANY PHOBIAS?***

"I'm claustrophobic; tight spaces and large crowds overwhelm me, and given the job I've chosen, I get

"I FEEL LIKE A **WALKING CONTRADICTION** SOMETIMES"

LYNN GUNN

that that's pretty ironic! We had a tour bus for the first time on Warped Tour this year, and the bunk is almost a little too tight for me – I can sleep in there, but that's all. When we were in the UK, we were in a Sprinter van, with the seats facing each other and a table between, and a couple of times I got the seat by the window with two people boxing me in and I felt so trapped, I was like, 'I *need* to get out of here, everyone needs to switch places with me… *Now*!'"

***HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ARRESTED?***
"No, I have not. I'm pretty well behaved, though I've been pulled over for speeding before. I was doing 95kph in, like, a 65kph zone, but I got away with it, sort of. Usually the way the fine works is that for every mile over the speed limit you're driving, you get charged a certain amount, but I somehow managed to only get the standard ticket, for $90. I don't know how I did that."

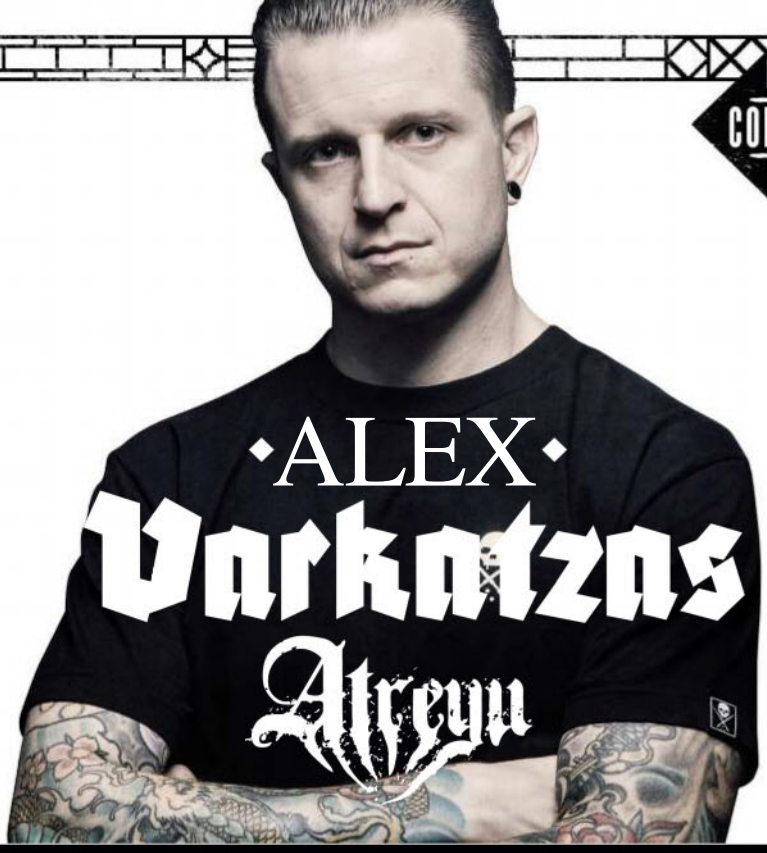
***HAVE YOU EVER HAD A HAIRCUT THAT MADE YOU CRY?***
"Oh yeah, but actually only in retrospect, because at the time I loved it! When I was in kindergarten I had a bowl cut, but back then I thought I was a little boy, and I was like, 'I *love* this haircut!' My mom was like, 'No, you don't!' Brian [MacDonald, PVRIS bassist] carries little pictures of me looking like that in his wallet and likes to torment me with them!"

***ARE YOUR PARENTS PROUD OF WHAT YOU ARE DOING WITH YOUR LIFE?***
"They are *now*. When I first started playing in a band they were definitely a little hesitant, because they didn't know where it would go. I think now that we're busy nine or 10 months out of the year and making a living out of it, they get that it's not just for fun. I have an older brother who loves what I'm doing. He actually got me into music, because I was always a little copycat, and one day I want to be able to involve him with this as a big thank you."

***WOULD YOU KILL SOMEONE IF YOU KNEW YOU COULD GET AWAY WITH IT?***
"No. Wow, *definitely* no! I don't think I could ever dislike anyone enough to want to kill them. People definitely annoy me, but I don't even think there's anyone in the world I'd like to *punch* if I could get away with it. Well, except maybe someone from the Westboro Baptist Church… I've never even shoplifted or anything like that. There have been times I've been in Walmart and thought it would be *so* easy to just take this, but I have such a guilty conscience. The worst thing I've ever done is skip school."

***IF YOU COULD BRING ANYONE BACK TO LIFE, WHO WOULD IT BE?***
"Edgar Allen Poe. He's my favourite writer, because he's so dark and creepy and misunderstood, and I would love to see what he had to say about the world these days. I don't think he'd be down for writing a song with me, though; I'm pretty sure he'd take one look at what we do and decide he was far too cool to waste his time. I also think I'd probably be a bit too starstruck to ask anyway!"

***WHAT FICTIONAL CHARACTER DO YOU MOST IDENTIFY WITH?***
"Squidward Tentacles [from SpongeBob SquarePants]. He's very sarcastic and dry, and he likes to play music and do artsy things, so we have that in common, and he's always annoyed by stupid people. I actually think that Squidward, SpongeBob and Patrick are a good dynamic representation of our band. I feel that Alex [Babinski, PVRIS guitarist] is kind of like Patrick, Brian's kinda like SpongeBob, and then there's me, always saying, '*What* are you two doing?!' But they're always friends at the end of the day."




# ALEX ISN'T LYING WHEN HE SAYS HIS WORST BREAK-UP WAS PRETTY AWFUL…

Q/A ***WHICH ATREYU SONG ARE YOU LEAST PROUD OF AND WHY?***
"Falling Down. But, in a fucked-up way, it's also the song I'm kinda most proud of. Maybe that shows how messed-up I am. It doesn't really sound like Atreyu to me. It's a bitchin' song, and is by far our most commercially successful song. But it went in a direction that I'm glad we're not going down any more."

***WHAT IS YOUR MOST DISGUSTING HABIT?***
"Picking my nose. I don't eat it or any of that shit, but sure, I'll pick it every now and then. I probably shouldn't be saying this in Kerrang!, but if you've seen us play, you'll know about the snot rocket. That's my most disgusting habit. If you've got a booger onstage, sometimes you have to blast it. But eating it is a step too far – that's just fucking dark, man."

> "I'M SCARED OF BEING **KILLED** BY SNAKES"
> ALEX VARKATZAS

***WHAT SCARES YOU MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE?***
"I'm *terrified* of snakes. I hate them more than anything. They've bothered me since I was a kid. I remember show-and-tell at school, people would bring them into class and I hated that. I'm into art and I actually have a bunch of snake tattoos – one of a bulldog killing a snake! If there's a snake in the house, there's no way I'll be spending the night. I'm too scared of being killed by a snake when I sleep."

***WOULD YOU KILL SOMEONE IF YOU KNEW YOU COULD GET AWAY WITH IT?***
"If they really deserved it… I think so. Say if someone laid a hand on my son or any direct family member – but especially my son, wife or mother – it'd be pretty hard not to beat that person to death. I feel like anyone would say that, other than maybe some super-Christian dudes or whatever. If you mess with a hair on my son's head… I'll die trying."

***WHAT IS YOUR SHITTEST TATTOO?***
"It's actually my first chest piece that went across both pecs. It was supposed to be a valve heart with two roses coming out of it, but it looked more like two red cabbages and some ground beef. I got it covered up earlier this year with a wolf's head and two fresh roses. You can't even tell it's there any more."

***WHAT'S YOUR BIGGEST REGRET?***
"My biggest regrets are when I don't live up to the person I know I am. There's shit that's in your control and then there's shit that's *out* of your control. My grandfather passed away while we were on tour and I missed a late-night call to tell me he was dying. I could have gone back and said goodbye. I had my fucking cell phone off and wasn't there for my family and let them down. The song Doomsday is about when I found out."

***HAVE YOU EVER SNEAKED PAST FANS WHO WERE WAITING TO SEE YOU?***
"I wouldn't say 'sneak' (*laughs*)! There have been situations where we've been fucked for time and we might miss our flight or have already been out signing autographs. For the most part, we're social and approachable dudes. But an hour before we play, I'll try sneaking past *anyone*. I'm changing my mind-set to the person that goes up onstage, and that person isn't good at talking to people. It's like when Bruce Banner turns into the Hulk… You don't want the Hulk doing your PR! Five minutes after the show, I'm pretty fucking intense and living in my own head."

***WHAT'S THE WORST WAY YOU'VE EVER DUMPED SOMEONE?***
"Back in college I made up a story about having a psychologist for my depression who told me to get my life in order, so I couldn't hang with this girl any more. It felt like the easiest way to let her down, but it was pretty shitty. Usually I'm a lot more straight-up, but in this case it was the best way out."

# ·JACOBY· Shaddix

## Papa roach

**JACOBY**'S BEEN TO HELL AND BACK IN HIS 20-YEAR CAREER, BUT COULD HE SAVE HIS YOUNGER SELF?

Q/A ***HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ARRESTED?***

"Yes, I have been arrested twice. Once was for inciting a riot in New Jersey on Ozzfest, which was pretty wild. That time it wasn't the cops that I was afraid of, it was Sharon Osbourne! The second time was in Hollywood, when I got arrested for [drunk-driving]. It was inevitable that behaviour would catch up with me. But that time the cops were cool – they were like, 'Oh, we love arresting rockstar types, it's like extra points for us.' But it didn't force me to change my ways. I got out of jail the next morning and went straight out and hit the bottle."

***HAVE YOU EVER SNEAKED PAST FANS WHO WERE WAITING TO SEE YOU?***

"I have. I'm usually good about getting out there and signing autographs, but if I'm sick, then there are just some days when you've got to have some self-preservation. Every so often you've just got to – as we call it – 'go ghost'. The way to do it is put up a black hoodie and walk like you've got a purpose."

> "I WAS THE KID THAT TOUCHED **THE FLAME** REPEATEDLY"
> JACOBY SHADDIX

***ARE YOUR PARENTS PROUD OF WHAT YOU DO?***

"Definitely, 100 per cent. In the beginning of it they were confused, because I started this band when I was 16 years old. They assumed that I was going to go to college and join the workforce. But I quit the [high school American] football team and my parents couldn't understand why, because I was a good player. And I just said, "Cause I wanna rock! Sounds goofy, mom, but I just wanna rock.' I had no interest in anything else. In fact, back then, no-one was really very supportive. But then things started to happen for us and they were all like, 'Holy shit, they did it!' But my parents are definitely proud of what I do."

***IF SOMEONE WRONGS YOU, DO YOU SEEK REVENGE OR TURN THE OTHER CHEEK?***

"I seek revenge in my mind, but in reality I'm just not wired for revenge. Forgiveness has always topped my list. My wife thinks I'm crazy. She says, 'How can you forgive that person for doing that, blah blah.' Somehow I always see good in everybody. But I do believe that my wife took revenge on *me* once for some stupid stuff I did by peeing on my toothbrush. Because I was being, you know, a dick. If my brother does me wrong, I'm gonna pee on his toothbrush."

***IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME, WOULD YOU GIVE ANY ADVICE TO YOUR YOUNGER SELF?***

"I'd save my breath. My younger self would not listen. I know how I was as a kid, and I was the kind that needed to learn by my own mistakes. It was trial by fire. I was the kid that touched the flame repeatedly, who didn't understand that getting burned really does hurt. So, yeah, I'd save my breath and have me learn the hard way. I was pig-headed; it used to take a sledgehammer to get my attention, but now I've downgraded to a baseball bat. My goal is that a tap on the shoulder will get my attention."

***WHO WAS THE LAST PERSON YOU FOUGHT WITH?***

"My band. It was just a straight verbal argument after we came offstage and had had a terrible night. I was like, 'I'm fed up of this shit, man. I'm out here on the road and I wanna have fun.' Sometimes we get caught up in the details, such as the lights and whether or not the guitars are in tune. We take our shit real serious, but sometimes I've got to remind them that this is supposed to be fun. It's not supposed to be a job. So, we had a blow-out. But when we got to the other side we went out and played bubble-soccer and went skydiving."

***WHAT'S THE WORST WAY YOU'VE EVER DUMPED SOMEONE?***

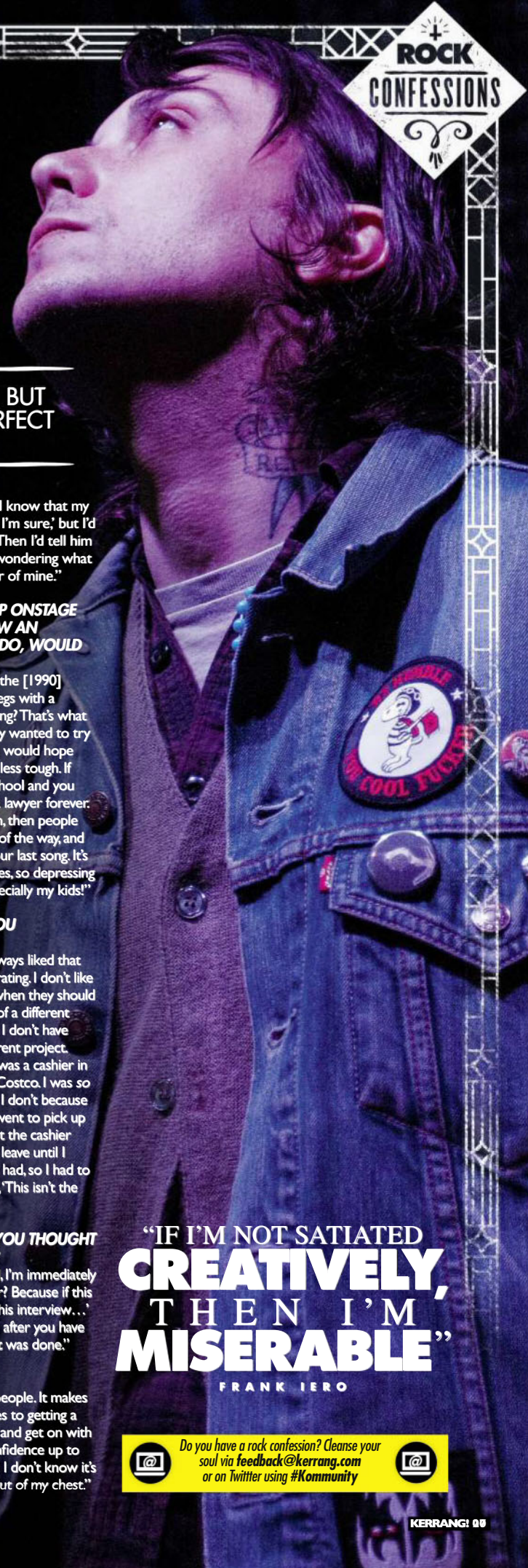
"You know, I've never dumped someone, I've always been the one that's been dumped. Man, that's terrible, when you think about it. But, let's get real: I met my wife when I was 17, and I've been married since I was 18. So, the dating life was something that I never experienced. I had a few high-school girlfriends who just got fed up of my shit, but I've yet to dump anyone. Actually, I never want to."

***WHICH FICTIONAL CHARACTER DO YOU MOST IDENTIFY WITH?***

"The Hulk. I'm capable of the darkest, most insane shit; I've been there and I've done that. And every once in a while that dark side comes out, and when I get pissed and ferocious, it is not a pretty sight. The more pissed I get, the more it fuels the rage. And when that happens, you better get out of my way, 'cause you're about to get levelled, motherfucker."

# FRANK IERO

**FRANK**'S SEEN EVERY HIGH AND LOW IN ROCK, BUT OUR GUITAR HERO IS STILL TRYING TO GET THE PERFECT BALANCE FOR HAPPINESS JUST RIGHT...



**Q/A WHAT'S THE ONE THING YOU'D CHANGE ABOUT YOURSELF IF YOU COULD?**

"Oh, man, I feel like I tend to be a habitual people-pleaser. In my old age I'm learning a bit more that it's okay and a bit nicer to say 'no' sometimes. So, that's one thing. I also tend to be a little too empathetic, to the point where it really affects me. It's hard."

**WHAT WOULD OTHER PEOPLE SAY YOU SHOULD CHANGE?**

"I'm trying not to think of the shit I've heard people say about me behind my back (*laughs*)! There's a lot of fucking things. I try to juggle too many things, I constantly worry, I hate *everything*, I complain a lot and I'm *always* late for everything!"

**WHAT DO YOU MISS MOST WHEN YOU'RE ON TOUR?**

"It's family. It's crazy, when you have a family; *nothing* is about yourself any more. I mean this in a great way, but the second you have kids, it's not about *you*. Essentially your life is done and you live your life for them."

**NOW YOU'RE LIVING YOUR LIFE FOR OTHERS, HAVE YOU STARTED TO VIEW BEING A MUSICIAN AS A JOB?**

"Touring is a job. Travel and being away is a job. The making and creating part is *not*. I really thought that my creative side and my real-life side were totally separate, but they're not – they're *so* interconnected. If I'm not satiated creatively, then I'm not the husband and father that I want to be – I'm a miserable, fucked-up person. This ties into my ideal of people who go to a nine-to-five job and come home and don't think about their job at all. I don't have *that* job. When I come home – be it from tour or just a show – I'm constantly thinking about how that thing went. Could I have done this differently? Could I have done that differently? It's *always* on my mind. As far as being creative goes, if I can't do *this* correctly, then what good am I? For me, if I can make something I'm proud of, then I'm happy to be who I am, and I'm a good father and a good husband."

**IF YOU COULD TRADE IN YOUR ARTISTIC TEMPERAMENT AND BE THE GUY WITH THE NINE-TO-FIVE JOB, WOULD YOU DO IT?**

"Yeah, but I know it wouldn't last, because I'd end up being very miserable. There's definitely a part of me that envies that [life]. If you were a mailman, you deliver all this mail and when you go home, the last thing you think of are fucking letters. I would *love* that. But the bad times are greatly outweighed by the good times."

**IF YOU COULD MEET YOUR YOUNGER SELF, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO HIM?**

"I guess it'd be, 'Are you *sure* this is what you want?' It's a very, very hard life that we live. I know that my younger self's answer would be, 'Yes, I'm sure,' but I'd like to try to give myself the option. Then I'd tell him that it's going to work out, because wondering what the future holds was always a big fear of mine."

**YOU'VE BROUGHT YOUR KIDS UP ONSTAGE BEFORE – IF THEY WERE TO SHOW AN INTEREST IN DOING WHAT YOU DO, WOULD YOU SUPPORT THEM?**

"You know Kathy Bates' character in the [1990] film Misery, where she hits the guy's legs with a sledgehammer to stop him from leaving? That's what I'd have to do. I'm kidding! If they really wanted to try it, then I'd give them a chance to, but I would hope that they would do something a little less tough. If you want to be a lawyer, you go to school and you pass the bar, then you're going to be a lawyer forever. However, if you want to be a musician, then people will try to beat you down every step of the way, and then you'll only ever be as good as your last song. It's so mean and so subjective and, at times, so depressing – I'd hate to see that for anybody, especially my kids!"

**WHO WAS THE LAST PERSON YOU FOUGHT WITH?**

"I've always been in bands and have always liked that process of being in bands and collaborating. I don't like it when other people *aren't* like that when they should be. This project, however, is a little bit of a different animal. We don't fight in this band, but I don't have to fight for my way because it's a different project. The last person I actually fought with was a cashier in [American warehouse supermarket] Costco. I was *so* angry because my wife has a card and I don't because I'm not at home a lot. While my wife went to pick up a prescription, I did some shopping but the cashier wouldn't give me a receipt and let me leave until I showed her the card – which my wife had, so I had to wait until she got there. I was thinking, 'This isn't the fucking Pentagon, this is Costco!'"

**WOULD YOU KILL SOMEONE IF YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD GET AWAY WITH IT?**

"Probably. Here's the thing: in my head, I'm immediately thinking, 'Should I give the right answer? Because if this ever was to happen, they could read this interview...' That's quite telling. Everything changes after you have kids, so it depends very much on what was done."

**HAVE YOU GOT ANY PHOBIAS?**

"Anything with legs: from spiders to people. It makes going out pretty tough. When it comes to getting a spider out of the bathtub, I suck it up and get on with it. If I know it's there, I can get the confidence up to deal with it. If it's on me, however, and I don't know it's there, then my fucking heart will fall out of my chest."

**"IF I'M NOT SATIATED CREATIVELY, THEN I'M MISERABLE"**

FRANK IERO

*Do you have a rock confession? Cleanse your soul via* ***feedback@kerrang.com*** *or on Twitter using* ***#Kommunity***

# THE DAY THE WORLD TURNED BLACK

**DEAFHEAVEN**'S SUNBATHER MADE BLACK METAL FANS OF PEOPLE WHO ONCE SHUNNED THE SHADOWS. IT ALSO LEFT PURISTS TURNING THEIR BACKS, TOO. NOW, CAN THIRD ALBUM **NEW BERMUDA** UNITE A DIVIDED SCENE?

It was summer 2013 when Deafheaven leaders George Clarke and Kerry McCoy found themselves caught in the eye of a storm. The San Francisco metallers had thus far quietly existed in the murky pits of obscurity as relative unknowns, its two founders – vocalist and guitarist, respectively – surviving off food stamps and sharing the living room of a one-bedroom house with six others. Going on tour meant sleeping in cars and scouring the endless roads for gas stations that would accept government coupons in return for a small bag of Doritos.

Then one day, almost as if overnight, the previously anonymous pair unwittingly become one of the biggest talking points in heavy music.

To some, the shoegazey black metal explored on Deafheaven's second album, Sunbather, was nothing short of genius – a transcendental portal through lost kingdoms deep within the human psyche. To others, it was blasphemy of the highest decree, taking the Devil's music away from the Devil's church. There were those who didn't even get as far; music 'fans' who saw a press shot of two ordinary looking men and decided it wasn't for them. Either way, Sunbather was a record that seemingly *everyone* had an opinion on, and Deafheaven were fast becoming the biggest traitors or saviours in extreme music, depending on who you asked.

"I'm okay with Sunbather's success," shrugs George,

*Deafheaven – better with a delay pedal than a paint brush: (From left) Daniel Tracy (drums), Stephen Clark (bass), George Clarke (vocals), Kerry McCoy (guitar) and Shiv Mehra (guitar)*

sat two years on from that record's release on a window ledge overlooking the crowds of London King's Cross. "But the controversy was *shocking*. My initial thoughts were, 'Why do you care about us so much?' People seemed to have such strong opinions. Because the positive ones were just as crazy sometimes, we'd see audience members crying or people saying Sunbather was the most beautiful thing they'd ever heard. I'm happy they believe that and don't discredit or hate it whatsoever, but it's just as baffling as the other guy that's like, 'I hate you and want you to die.'"

In some ways it was easy to see why they were splitting opinion. The London leg of the subsequent tour was held in trendy Dalston, and the Darkthrone tees were noticeably few and far between. Sunbather's so-called 'blackgaze' was more successful than anyone could have predicted, gaining high praise from the underground to the indie mainstream, but perhaps most of all in igniting the debate over its legitimacy as a form of black metal today. How far was *too far* from the lo-fi necromancies that built the black church in the mid-'80s, when the first wave of musicians pledged allegiance to Satan for their own wicked ends? Judgements served and slurs thrown, many would have quite rightly felt out of their depth, but, in truth, Deafheaven never did.

"I'm glad we're not doing harsh noise, otherwise it could have been even worse," jokes George, the polar opposite in real-life to the imposing figure he cuts onstage. "But yeah, it's definitely one of the most elitist genres. That won't stop black metal from evolving, though. It *has* evolved. The question is whether *you* are willing to pay attention. I don't feel the music is stagnant; I feel like people are stagnant in the way they recognise the progressive aspects of it. People don't really investigate a band these days. They hear two minutes of a song, see what we look like, come up with an assumption… and hate on us a bunch."

George and Kerry have come a long way since they met at high school and started bunking off to smoke cigarettes in the park. You could say they became used to being outsiders from an early age – misfits that had little opportunity to integrate, nor did they have any inclination to do so anyway. Instead, the pair would immerse themselves within a world of music that knew few bounds, paying as much attention to dream pop and Britrock bands as they did unearthly psalms for the dead. It was a journey that shaped the men they grew up to be and the five-piece they lead today.

"At school we were terribly, terribly lame," laughs George. "Kerry had a Dead Kennedys patch on his jacket and I was the new kid in a Slayer shirt with spiky bracelets and make-up. We were all acne-faced and really awkward. People would drive by shouting 'faggot' as we walked along with our backpacks being like, 'Man, no-one understands us, everyone's so mean.' We were total outcasts and pretty much still are."

> "WE WERE **OUTCASTS** AND STILL ARE"
> GEORGE CLARKE

After playing atmospheric death metal together in Rise Of Caligula, the duo formed Deafheaven in early 2010, and by the end of the year they'd inked a deal with Converge singer Jacob Bannon's Deathwish Inc. label. It would be another few years before they'd write the album that would change their lives.

Now the dust from Sunbather has begun to settle, Deafheaven are back with New Bermuda – five tracks and 47 minutes of blissful ambiences ricocheting through dark, purposeful enchantments, which the San Franciscans wanted to capture the bittersweet truth of their own climb to success.

"When you think about it, the lows only feel as low as they do *because* of the highs," George reasons. "There's a contradiction, some awful balance between the two… because the light can show you how dark things can be."

In the same respect, following one of the most unexpected cult successes in recent times was never going to be a walk in the park. With it comes the sleepless nights of creative deliberation – do you bank on glories and stick to your guns? Or write off the past entirely in search of artistic integrity? New Bermuda is an album that, by George's admission, does a bit of both.

"There was an *insane* amount of pressure," offers the singer. "But it was more internal than external. We discussed abandoning the style completely because we'd become sick of it being talked about. As it turns out, [Kerry and I had] both gotten back into early Metallica and Slayer, which influenced the guitar-playing greatly. Sunbather has this dreamlike yearning for more; we were basically homeless when we wrote it. New Bermuda is the harsh reality of mundane existence, when I relocated to Los Angeles to have everything I wanted, but then felt dissatisfied and trapped in depression. That's what LA was to me, my New Bermuda. It was a paradise I sought, but before I really got there, the bitter waters of reality pulled me under and swallowed me whole. This is what came out of it."

Through the eye of one storm and into the next. One thing's for certain – New Bermuda won't see Deafheaven vanishing without a trace anytime soon.

**NEW BERMUDA IS OUT OCTOBER 2 VIA ANTI-**

**WORDS:** AMIT SHARMA **PHOTO:** PAUL HARRIES

## THE BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO BLACKGAZE

HAVEN'T HEARD OF IT? LET GEORGE CLARKE FILL YOU IN…

### THE ROOTS…

"Blackgaze is taking the ethereal parts of atmospheric black metal and accenting them with shoegaze influences. It began as early as Ulver, who have an incredibly atmospheric sound, or you have Cold War, who were doing that early on, too."

### THE BANDS…

"The key bands are Alcest, Amesoeurs, Blut Aus Nord, Drudkh, Woods Of Desolation… We're good friends with [Alcest/Amesoeurs founder] Neige and he feels very deeply about black metal and progressing it. We connect a lot."

### THE SOUND…

"Take the sound of Ulver and Filosofem-era Burzum and then mix in the guitar tone and delay effects of Slowdive or My Bloody Valentine. You need that gliding guitar sound with delay and reverb against the hypnotic blastbeats behind a blackened riff."

### …AND THE RESULT

"I'd say My Bloody Valentine are heavier than a lot of metal bands: insanely layered and extreme. You take all that, weld it together with post-rock and black metal… and you have something that people call blackgaze."

PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

SEE WHERE IT ALL BEGAN FOR PAIGE AS NXT WOMEN'S CHAMPION WHEN WWE PRESENTS NXT UK TAKEOVER TOUR THIS DECEMBER. FOR TICKETS VISIT WWW.LIVENATION.CO.UK

NECK DEEP
KERRANG!
PHOTO: IAN COLLINS

BABYMETAL

KERRANG!

PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

# THE KINGS OF THE JUNGLE

**WORDS:** SAM COARE, AMIT SHARMA, IAN WINWOOD
**PHOTOS:** MARC CANTER, JACK LUE

IN JUNE 1985, THE MOST DANGEROUS BAND IN THE WORLD CAME TO BE. THIRTY YEARS ON, WE RELIVE **GUNS N' ROSES**' EARLIEST DAYS THROUGH THE EYES OF FRIENDS, MANAGERS, LABEL EXECS – AND THE MEN THEMSELVES…

The Sunset Strip is probably the most famous mile-and-a-half of concrete in music. Today, it stands as a tired monument to days past; venues, bars and people, all of which have seen better days, soon to be swept away by the shiny metal-and-glass tourism replacing West Hollywood's brick and mortar.

Thirty years ago, however, this street was a very different place indeed, awash with sleaze, dirt, drugs, and the rock'n'roll dreams of those that stomped religiously between infamous venues such as The Viper Room, The Whisky-A-Go-Go, The Rainbow and The Roxy.

Among those people were five 20-nothings that would go on to become The Most Dangerous – and, arguably, the greatest – Band Of All Time. Three decades ago, this was the street that birthed Guns N' Roses. With rumours abound of one of the most remarkable and long-awaited reunions ever (but more on that later), and to mark the occasion of their 30th birthday, with a mix of exclusive new interviews and material lodged deep inside the Kerrang! archives, we retrace the origins of the quintet's insatiable appetite for destruction…

**TOM ZUTAUT:** "The appetite for music was incredible. On Friday and Saturday nights there would be so many people on Sunset Strip that, literally, the LA County Sheriffs had to close Sunset off. They had to detour cars around. A lot of the time, fights would evolve between people who were into what's now known as 'hair metal' and the punk kids."

**DUFF McKAGAN:** "As far as I could tell, there was really no [one] discernible scene in Los Angeles in 1984 – only the palpable hangover of a once-thriving punk movement, a thriving but really bad heavy metal scene… and something called 'cow punk'."

## ROCKET KINGS AND QUEENS

YOUR KEY PLAYERS IN OUR GUNS N' ROSES STORY…

**AXL ROSE**
Guns' enigmatic frontman. The sole constant in the band since their inception.

**TOM ZUTAUT**
A&R exec who signed Guns N' Roses to Geffen Records.

**SLASH**
Guns' legendary guitarist. Departed acrimoniously in 1996.

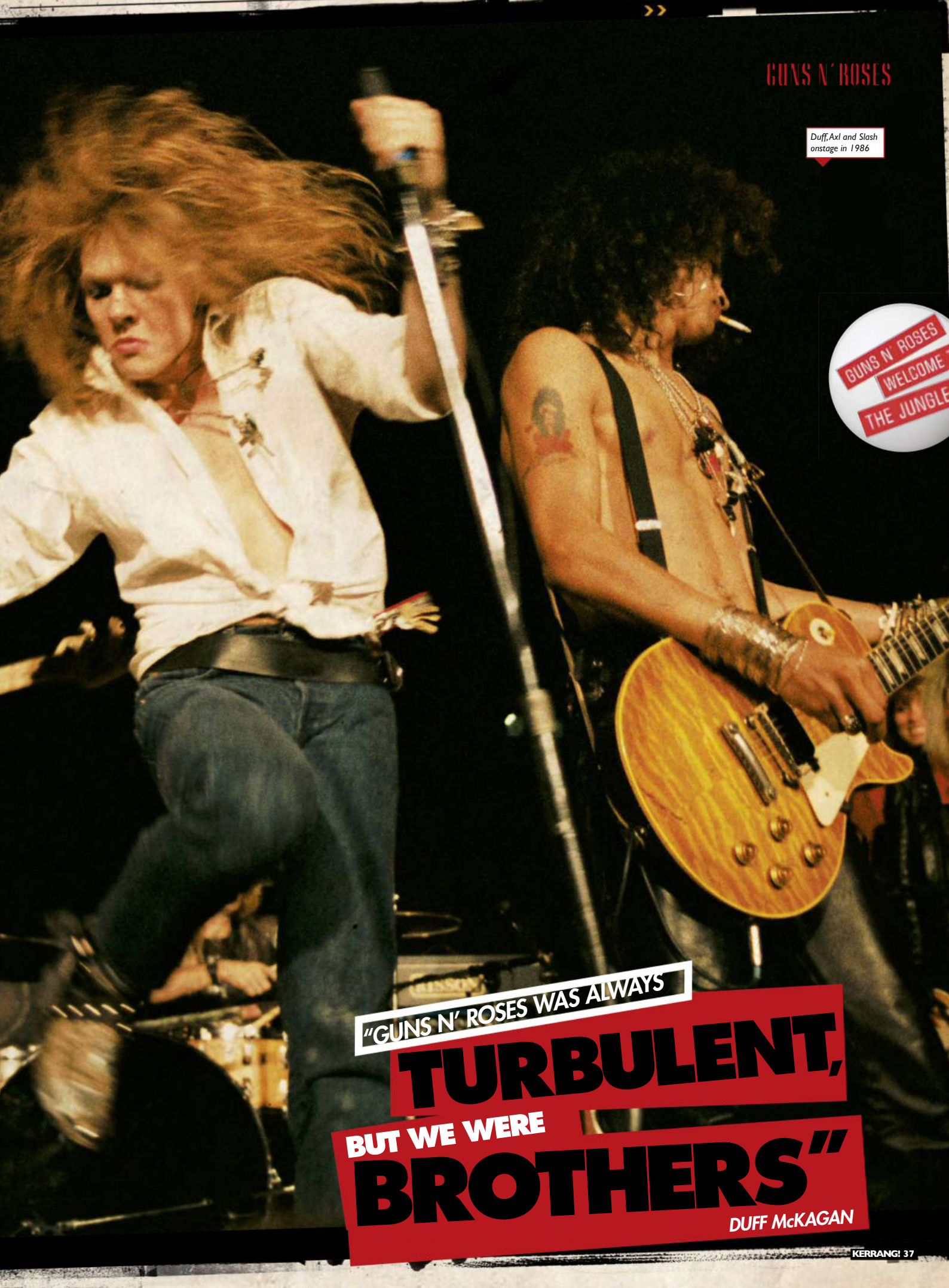
**MARC CANTER**
Slash's friend, of Guns hangout Canter's Deli fame. "The sixth guy in [Guns]," says Duff.

**DUFF McKAGAN**
Guns' bassist until 1997. Has since played onstage with Axl's 'new' Guns.

**VICKY HAMILTON**
Guns' early gig booker, first manager and some-time landlord.

**IZZY STRADLIN**
Guns' guitarist. Left shortly after the Use Your Illusion double album in 1991.

**STEVEN ADLER**
Guns' drummer. Was the first to leave the band due to drug problems in 1990.




*Duff, Axl and Slash onstage in 1986*

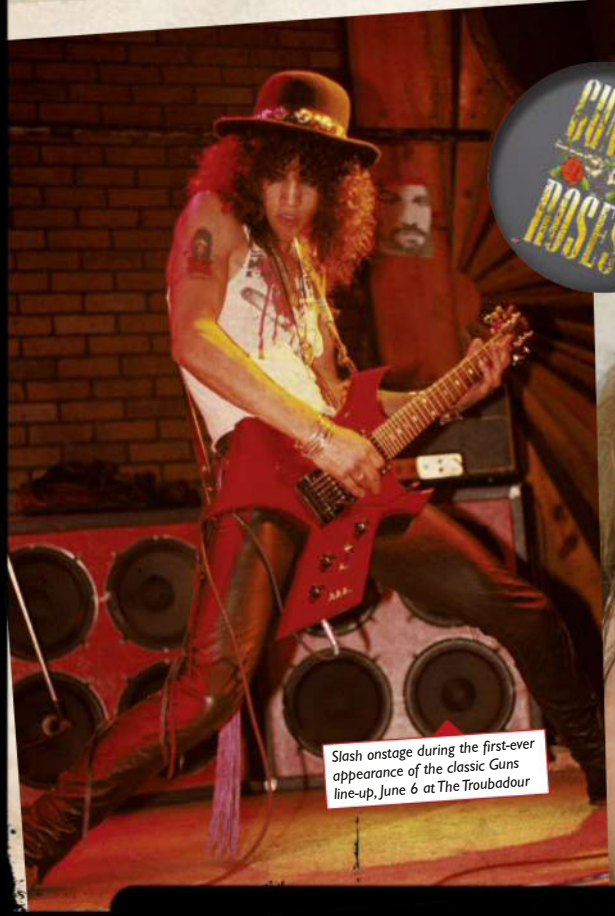
"GUNS N' ROSES WAS ALWAYS

# TURBULENT, BUT WE WERE BROTHERS"

DUFF McKAGAN

*The band's first 'press shot', taken in Canter's Deli upon GN'R's return from the Hell Tour, 1985*

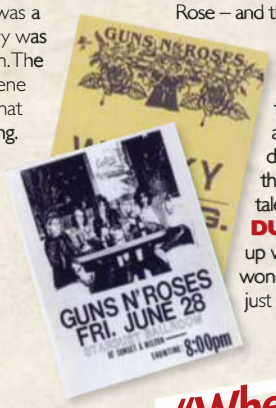
*Guns' first-ever show: not exactly what you'd call a sell-out…*



*Slash onstage during the first-ever appearance of the classic Guns line-up, June 6 at The Troubadour*

*GN'R, barely three weeks after uniting: (front left) Axl Rose, Izzy Stradlin, Slash, Steven Adler and Duff McKagan*

**STEVEN ADLER:** "All these bands had Spandex and make-up and crap."
**TOM:** "There was this moment where music was kinda dull and the commerce machine was rolling. Everybody was making a lot of money, the record companies, the bands. But there was something kinda stale about the music; every band I was seeing were pretty much the same formula as the bands that were already successful, like Mötley Crüe."
**MARC CANTER:** "Everyone was trying to dress like the New York Dolls, or something. But it was a scene where people were out there promoting what they were doing; it was a hungry time. Really, the music industry was sort of dead – not a lot was going on. The '70s music had died out, the punk scene had died out in the early '80s, and what was left wasn't anything fun or exciting. So, you had all these bands out there trying to make their mark. And they where all out on the Sunset Strip."
**VICKY HAMILTON:** "Every band had flyers; there were flyer wars. Bands were trying to out-flyer each other, they were all dating the same strippers, it was a nutty, nutty scene. Those three blocks between Doheny and Clarke Street, every night there was a parade of hair metal bands. By the mid-'80s, bands were flocking to California."




*Two of those people who had flocked west were Axl Rose – then still going by the name Bill Bailey – and his friend from back home in Lafayette, Indiana, Izzy Stradlin. Axl was a troubled kid, arrested over 20 times before, aged 20, he moved to join Izzy in LA, eventually forming the band Hollywood Rose together.*

**IZZY STRADLIN:** "[Axl] was a serious lunatic when I first met him. He was just really fucking bent on fighting and destroying things. Somebody'd look at him wrong and he'd just start a fight"
**AXL ROSE:** "I remember for two years standing at the Troubadour, and people wouldn't talk to me. I didn't know what to say to them, so you just watched and learned for a long, long time. It took years to start getting accepted in LA."
**VICKY:** "I met Axl and Izzy when they were Hollywood Rose. Axl had called me up and said, 'You come recommended and we'd like you to book us some shows.' I said, 'Cool, send me a demo,' and he said, 'Well, can I come play you it? I'll bring a ghetto blaster.' Four hours later, he and Izzy show up at my office with a ghetto blaster in hand. I was blown away. Izzy and Axl were from Indiana, as am I, so we bonded on that. They were very driven; they'd hitchhiked to LA to make their dream come true. They were charismatic and sweet, as all young bands are. They don't turn crazy until they get successful…"

*Success, however, was still a way off. First, Hollywood Rose would need to become Guns N' Roses, following a combining of forces with fellow Hollywood rockers LA Guns – and the addition of a 21-year-old Seattle punk named Duff McKagan…*

**VICKY:** "There was something about Hollywood Rose – and then Guns N' Roses – that was just a bit different about those bands on the scene. At that point, the scene had got really girly. When I heard them I was like, 'Wow, this feels a little different.' It was dangerous and guitar-laden; it had an energy that was different to the rest. I mean, granted, when they first started out, they were not that talented, either…"
**DUFF:** "That original Guns N' Roses line-up was really pretty bad. I was beginning to wonder why I was playing in a band that was just like any I had been in in Seattle."

> "When I first met him, **AXL WAS A LUNATIC**"
> Izzy Stradlin

**MARC:** "Duff was actually a guitar player, but when he found out he needed to play bass he was like, 'Okay, I'll do that.' He just wanted a gig. Because Duff was from Seattle, he decided to book this tour in Seattle for June 1985. And, well, Tracii [Guns, LA Guns guitarist] and Rob [Gardner, drums] didn't wanna go because they didn't trust the car they'd be taking and they didn't know where they'd be staying. Axl, Izzy and Duff didn't care, even if they slept on the streets, because they were there for the music."
**DUFF:** "We sat down one night and agreed that we should do a West Coast tour. But when we told Rob and Tracii about it, they both chickened out. So, I started talking to Axl about getting somebody else in. And I told him about Steven and Slash…"

## WORKING UP AN APPETITE

FROM THE MAYHEM OF THEIR FIRST YEAR TOGETHER CAME THE SONGS THAT WOULD MAKE UP A LITTLE ALBUM CALLED **APPETITE FOR DESTRUCTION**…

'How,' Geffen's Tom Zutaut found himself asking in January 1987, 'do you bottle lightning?' Such was the task facing GN'R when work began on their debut album, Appetite For Destruction.

It was agreed that the best way of doing exactly that was to change exactly nothing. Tracks were initially recorded by the whole band live (Slash later overdubbing his guitar, and Axl tracking vocals). And as the band jammed as they had always done, they partied like they had, too. Despite Izzy and Slash living in the studio, you couldn't bet on when any of the band would show up for work; they were, says Tom, capable of working 'round the clock one week, then disappearing the next.

Yet still, the sessions proved remarkably productive. Material as good as Don't Cry, Patience and November Rain was even shelved (Tom Zutaut claims half of the material on 1991's Use Your Illusion albums was written either before or during the Appetite sessions), after the band were convinced they needed 12 tracks to represent the essence of their live show on tape.

By July 1988, the record was on shelves. By August '89, it was atop the charts. And by 2008, it would be the biggest-selling debut of all time.

*Duff had known the pair from his time in the band Road Crew two years prior. Yet those names were not new to the Guns N' Roses mainman, either, after the incestuous Sunset Strip scene had brought them all together for a short, ill-tempered time. Soon, the dots would be connected – and bonded forever over a weeklong trip that would become known as 'The Hell Tour'…*

**MARC:** "[At that time], Slash had just joined this band called Black Sheep, but he wasn't really into it. Axl, Izzy and Duff had this gig as Guns N' Roses booked at The Troubadour on June 6, 1985, and knew they needed Slash and Steven for it to go ahead. I loved Axl and I knew he was a great singer, songwriter and a good kid. But I didn't think it would last long because they had personality conflicts and they got into arguments."
**STEVEN:** "We went in [the studio] together, jammed and had a great time. So, the next day we played the Troubadour to about two people. And the next morning we got in a car and drove to Seattle – and we only got as far as Bakersfield!"
**IZZY:** "The car we were driving busted down. So, we said, 'Fuck it!' and grabbed our guitars and jumped out and hitched a ride"
**DUFF:** "We were all standing at the side of the road dressed in our stage clothes. Five guys in striped tight pants and boots out in the middle of Oregon. When we finally got there, we had to play on other people's equipment and we were wasted. It was our first gig and we sucked really bad… It was hilarious. The whole trip went from bad to worse. But the playing was coming together and we knew that if we could get through that, we could get through anything."
**STEVEN:** "Somehow, we survived. We had to ask Duff's friend to pick us up and bring us home!"
**MARC:** "The reason I think it really worked was because of going to Seattle on that 'Hell Tour'. They had no money and they had to pick carrots out of farms to survive. All that stress pretty much made them blood brothers because they had suffered together and made it to that gig. They didn't give up."
**IZZY:** "It just took off from there. There was just, like, a 'fuck it' attitude. Not 'fuck it' in a negative way, but, 'Fuck it, we're going to play, we're going to do what we're going to do.' After that, you get back to the city and it's like, 'This is a piece of *cake*!'"

*Upon returning to LA a week later, bonded by their experiences and hardship, Guns N' Roses finally settled into a run of shows, songwriting, drinking and fighting that could come to be the calling card of the fledgling band…*

**VICKY:** "By the time the classic line-up came together, it was undeniable how good they were. Each show got a little, little better, and I'd say five or six shows in it was unbelievable. It moved really quickly; it was just magical, I don't really know any other way of describing it."
**STEVEN:** "Everything happened within just a few days. It just got better from there. No-one was like, 'Do this or do that.' It was more like, 'Try this and try that.' Then we realised, 'That's it, let's conquer the world!'"
**DUFF:** "When we first got together, I was like, '[Axl's] good, but I don't know.' But that's when we had these other two cats in the band [Tracii Guns and Rob Gardner] and the band was not clicking. But by the time Slash and Steven joined, we really clicked, and Axl all of a sudden clicked, too. It took something for him to click, and it took something for Slash to click. But when it happened, it was somethin' to see."
**MARC:** "Duff was the punk rocker. Izzy was like the Rolling Stones. Slash was like the bluesy, hard rock guy. Axl was a bit of everything, and Steven just had the groove for what they were doing."
**VICKY:** "It's chemistry. I think the chemistry between Axl and Slash is a love-hate relationship, and I believe that that happens in a lot of the great bands. Something brings an added fire to it. That connection between those two was obvious from the beginning. Izzy and Axl

knew each other as kids; Duff was pretty reserved and quiet, Steven was always happy-go-lucky. He had that sort of surfer personality."

**DUFF:** "You got through a lot of bands when you start playing at 15, and in the beginning you don't really know what you want to do. You just want to play. Eventually you run into each other and the chemistry is *just right*."

**SLASH:** "We just didn't give a fuck about anything else going on around us. We just had this edge, this scary, unpredictable thing about what we did. It was no-holds-barred."

**MARC:** "You had this gang of assassins who knew what to do with whatever each one came up with. If Slash came up with a riff, Axl would know what to do with it. If Izzy came up with a riff, Slash would know how to change it just a little bit and add something. Izzy was writing lyrics, Axl was writing lyrics; there was a lot going on. The police were chasing them, they where writing about how they were living, so they had all this attitude that was going on and they had the lyrics coming out of everywhere because there was so much drama going on."

**VICKY:** "The first few shows were not that well attended. When they got the point that they were drawing 100 people to The Troubadour and The Whisky and The Roxy, it seemed to be on fire. The word spread very quickly. People were talking about these unbelievable guitar players. Axl was being called Janis Joplin meets Jim Morrison. Their name was on everyone's lips."

**TOM:** "The first time I went to see Guns N' Roses [at The Roxy, January 18, 1986], they had traded slots with their opening band, so I missed them. But Axl came out and did an encore with this band Shark Island because he was friends with them, and I saw the most incredible frontman that I'd ever seen, anywhere, in any band. After the gig, I met him and told him that I was 99 per cent sure I would sign Guns N' Roses just based on seeing him sing one song with another band. Axl said to me, 'We're playing next week at The Troubadour and you should come.' And it was the loudest thing I've ever seen. People were putting cigarette butts and toilet paper in their ears, it was so loud. Within three minutes, I knew they were going to be one of the biggest bands in the history of rock music."

**SLASH:** "We were all street kids. We were all, individually, very rebellious, so collectively we were a force to be reckoned with. We basically caused enough mayhem to get noticed"

**IZZY:** "We just kept playing, and we made so much noise in the city that the labels started to come to us. They came to *us*!"

*Axl onstage in his pre-GN'R, Hollywood Rose days*

## "WE CAUSED ENOUGH MAYHEM TO GET NOTICED" SLASH

*What they were coming for were songs that would, in time, become some of the greatest hard rock songs of all time, and a livewire line-up that played as hard as they lived.*

**MARC:** "Don't Cry was the first song Izzy and Axl put together for Guns, but Slash decorated it with that chilling solo. Welcome To The Jungle was put together six weeks after the band started. Then Rocket Queen, then Paradise City… By Christmas they had Nightrain, then My Michelle a week later… They were knocking out music, and each gig would get bigger and bigger."

**TOM:** "They had a lot of great, sort of punky, hard rock songs, and they needed that one song that could separate them from the rest of all the bands. When they had Sweet Child O' Mine, I turned to the band and said, 'Okay, we're ready to record an album now.'"

**SLASH:** "A lot of our earliest songs came to us almost too easy. Out Ta Get Me came to be in an afternoon, even faster than Jungle. I think that even the most complicated section [was] written in under 20 minutes."

**VICKY:** "By the time they had moved into my apartment, the record labels had begun calling. There are no words to describe what them living there was like (*laughs*). Like a cyclone hit it? I had just moved into that apartment, Axl was sleeping on the couch, they were all staying there at one point except for Duff. They would take two sleeping bags and zip them together so their girlfriends could sleep over. It was crazy."

**AXL:** "It was five bags of garbage and all of us in one room. There was eight people living there, and a dog. [Things] got really crazy."

**VICKY:** "It was like herding wild cats, always. You didn't know if they were going to show up, even then. We were three hours late to sign the recording contract [with Geffen, who would release every one of the band's albums] because Axl couldn't find his contact lenses. We eventually found him sat on the roof of The Roxy. Slash used to say, 'You get three tests a day; a morning test, an afternoon test and an evening test, and if you pass those, you get rewarded with three more.'"

**TOM:** "The one thing about Guns is that they were *authentic*. They did everything for the music. Unfortunately, they had a lot of distractions. They got an advance of $75,000, and it caused more problems than it fixed. We moved them into an apartment and when you went to visit, you'd find half-eaten Burger Kings, people sitting in corners strung out, and the toilet ripped off the floor. They were living, eating and breathing the rock'n'roll lifestyle."

**MARC:** "Appetite For Destruction was a good representation of the band's life in 1985. It was basically their life story."

**SLASH:** "[The songs were] pretty much a storybook of everything Axl and the band was going through from the beginning of the '80s."

**TOM:** "People were afraid of them. Even producers were afraid of them, *managers* were afraid of them, and nobody wanted to work with them."

**SLASH:** "After a while, everybody we played with was scared of us because Axl got a reputation for being volatile and flying off the handle at any given moment. I'd been out with him several nights where we got into major fucking fights with total strangers… We were fighting people in the street – literally – because someone had looked at him wrong. Although I must admit… it was a hell of a lot of fun."

*And so, less than 18 months after coming together, Guns N' Roses had not only cemented their reputation as one of the most dangerous bands around, but also one of the best. As 1987 dawned, the band would enter the studio to record their debut album – and the rest, well…*

**MARC:** "They went out and fought for it. Those shows won them their crowd. They were just kids that grew up and played music, got themselves into a band with other musicians that they got along with and their goal was to simply go out there and play music for other people."

**VICKY:** "It was magical, but it wasn't easy. They sang It's So Easy, but it really wasn't, for any of them, and not for me. They had no money, just a dream and each other, and we were able to make that dream come true. But it was not at all easy. They worked for it, they lived it and they breathed it, 24/7. And there was no Plan B."

**TOM:** "There was just a fate and destiny with GN'R."

**DUFF:** "Guns was always a turbulent band, usually for obvious reasons. But having said that, we were a great band and we had a unique chemistry. There was just something about the five of us when we got together. We were brothers."

**STEVEN:** "It was just magic. And the rest, as they say, was history…"

**MARC CANTER'S RECKLESS ROAD IS AVAILABLE NOW – SEE RECKLESSROAD.COM FOR INFO. VICKY HAMILTON'S APPETITE FOR DYSFUNCTION IS AVAILABLE FOR PREORDER AT VICKYHAMILTON.COM**

## GUNS REUNITED?

### ROCK'S REMARKABLE REUNION RUMOUR ISN'T ABOUT TO COME TRUE… IS IT?

The annual rumours of a Guns N' Roses reunion are always about as empty as promises of a new Tool album, Zakk Wylde joining Pantera and Van Halen returning to UK stages. But now, *finally*, do they have some substance?

With Slash revealing in August that he and Axl had met to bury the hatchet, the possibility that we might one day see the original line-up onstage again seems to have cleared its biggest hurdle. That, coupled with the recent departures of Guns guitarists DJ Ashba and Rob 'Bumblefoot' Thai, has led to renewed hope for fans.

And yet, if anything *is* in the pipeline, everyone is keeping very, very quiet about it. None of the quintet have yet to speak out on the subject, with the normally media-friendly Slash and Duff notably silent. And with the organisers of Soundwave in Australia denying rumours they'd booked the band for their 2016 event, we might not be as close as we'd hope. Still, Appetite For Destruction turns 30 in 2017 – and if there's anything to move GN'R to reunite, surely it's that?

*An Axl-less GN'R are inducted into the Rock And Roll Hall Of Fame in April 2012: (from left) replacement guitarist Gilby Clarke and drummer Matt Sorum, Duff, Slash and Steven*

*Tune into **Kerrang! Radio** all week to hear some of the very best GN'R songs, as we put them under the Spotlight! See **Kerrang.com** for info*

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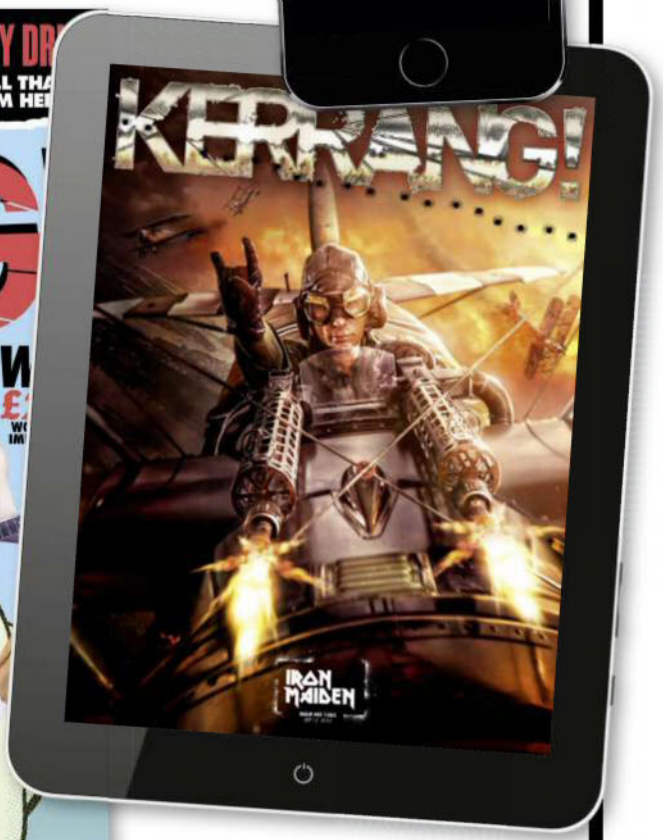


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*Brent's daily reminders on his hand were a bit more serious than 'Get milk'*

**"THERE IS NO EXPLANATION TO HOW I'M STILL ALIVE"**

● BRENT SMITH ●

INTERVIEW

# SURVIVAL INSTINCTS

BY HIS OWN ADMISSION, **BRENT SMITH** SHOULD BE DEAD. INSTEAD, THE **SHINEDOWN** FRONTMAN IS ONLY JUST LEARNING THE VALUE OF LIFE…

In 2010, when Shinedown were recording their fourth album, Amaryllis, Brent Smith's girlfriend spoke words that would amount to an epiphany. At this time, the frontman was spending much of his time bending the elbow with shots of Scotch and bending forward to inhale three grams of cocaine every day. As well as this, he was throwing back OxyContin – known as 'truckers' heroin' – as if they were Skittles.

"It was the morning after a pretty decent bender," comes the recollection, "and she said to me, 'Look, you have a lot of people that love you. But, basically, you're an asshole. People don't really want to deal with you any more, and I don't think that you want to deal with you when you're being that guy, either.'"

Dressed in black, 37 years old, tattooed and personable, Brent Smith sits alongside London's Regent's Canal. Despite "three or four" years of abstinence, he admits that he will be "an alcoholic and a drug addict for the rest of my life", until "they put my body in the ground". After this, Brent believes he will then embark on the next stage of the great adventure, and that his soul will live on.

His conviction regarding such matters is as Middle American as a rack of ribs and a frosty beer in Kansas. Or, indeed, as the music he makes with Shinedown.

"I've always said I have 'divine faith'," says the openly Christian frontman. "I've been through a lot of situations where there is no explanation as to how I survived them. I've been in countless situations where there is no rhyme or reason as to how I got out alive. But I did."

Shinedown spent 21 months aboard a tour bus in support of Amaryllis; once this task was completed, they then spent 18 months and an untold amount of money making its successor, the imminent Threat To Survival (turn to p51 for our track-by-track review). Markedly more autobiographical than any of the four albums that came before it, the release is, according to its lyricist, "a record about life and death".

"It's a very personal record," he says. "It's also very autobiographical, not just for me, but for everyone in the band. It is 11 songs, featuring 11 different scenarios… The title comes from the fact that we live in a very beautiful world, but we also live in a world that's quite devastating. That's the threat to survival."

Given your openness regarding your past personal problems, why wait so long to write lyrics of this kind?

"I didn't think I was in a position before to be able to write like this, in an honest manner," comes the answer. "But these songs couldn't wait to be born. A song such as Black Cadillac, about setting yourself free by getting a monkey off your back, is a good example."

You've intimated that by rights you ought to be dead. But what have you learned about life?

"I've learned not to be so intense," he says, "and not to believe that the world is going to fall apart every time some little thing goes wrong. I've always taken myself really seriously, and when I was younger I definitely had a chip on my shoulder. I'm a lot more confident than I used to be.

"But," he's quick to add, "I'm not cocky."

The reason that the younger Brent Smith had this chip on his shoulder was because, when he wore a schoolboy's clothes, he was an acne-scarred, overweight nobody. If people noticed him, it was only to flush his head down the toilet. In his hometown of Knoxville, Tennessee – the frontman these days resides just outside of Los Angeles with his partner Teresa and eight-year-old son Lyric – Brent was just 10 when his father began teaching him to box. Even today his compact physique – down *five-and-a-half stone* since becoming clean – resembles that of a capable middleweight. Clearly, though, it is also a vehicle the driver of which has not always been in control. Despite this, for Brent Smith, life, no matter how it is lived, is a priceless benefaction.

"I have to ask myself what is the greatest gift that a human being can ever be given," he says. "And for me, it's the gift of having life. It's being born, because that truly is a gift. But the question is, what do you do in the middle, in the bit between life and death?"

You talk about life being a gift. What do you do with yours when you're not on tour or in the studio with Shinedown?

For the first time in this interview, Brent Smith pauses. Sat at a wooden table, within walking distance of Moorfields Eye Hospital, the American squints into the distance. Life in a band, especially one as successful as his, is a blessing, but it is not without its toll – that of time taken away, and the absence of loved ones that have not, or cannot, choose to live their own lives in such an itinerant way.

"I spend time with my son," comes the answer. Today happens to be Lyric's first day at school as a second-grade pupil, but his father is not there to walk him to the school gates. Despite this, Brent – who could otherwise be found recharging his batteries slumped on in front of "crappy television" on a sofa – "loves to hang out with my son. In fact, it sometimes seems that I learn more from him than he does from me. Obviously I can't be with him anywhere as often as I'd like to be, but that doesn't mean that I love him any less."

If this seems like a mass of contradictions – God-fearing Southerner, rockstar, doting father, self-destructive addict, band leader – it probably is. What's more, Brent probably knows that it is. It is fitting, then, that he and his direct manner – "I take myself very seriously," he reiterates – are somehow likeable, despite the lack of cultural common ground. From his spiritual self to the songs he sings, everything about Brent Smith and Shinedown runs contrary to codes of fashion.

Yet for all of this, Brent and his band are doing more than merely surviving – they are thriving, as Shinedown's ever-increasing popularity would attest. And, anyway, here's the thing of it: Brent Smith knows this, and doesn't want it another way. You can either take it, or leave it.

**SHINEDOWN'S THREAT TO SURVIVAL IS OUT NOW VIA ATLANTIC**

## SURVIVAL OF THE LYRICS!

BRENT REVEALS HIS MOST PERSONAL LYRICS ON **THREAT TO SURVIVAL**…

### 'NO-ONE GETS OUT ALIVE, EVERY DAY IS DO OR DIE'

**HOW DID YOU LOVE?**

"This goes back to the fact that you've been given life but eventually you will pass away… but further on in that lyric I say that the one thing you leave behind is, were you good to people or were you an asshole?"

### 'AGONY BRINGS NO REWARD FOR ONE LAST HIT AND ONE MORE SCORE'

**CUT THE CORD**

"You'd think that this is about substance – although it can be about that – but it can also mean anything in your life that wraps itself around you and tries to bring you down in a negative way on a daily basis. You've got to cut that cord."

### 'AFTER ALL WE NEVER PLAYED BY THE RULES, WE BROKE THEM ALL AND FOUND OUR OWN KIND OF COOL'

**MISFITS**

"That song is about the people that you ride with and with whom you feel the most comfortable, because you have love and you don't really need the permission of anybody else. It's about being comfortable in your own skin."

WORDS: IAN WINWOOD PHOTO: IAN COLLINS

# The CIRCUS comes to TOWN

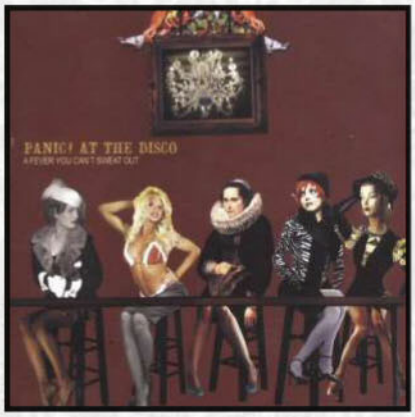
TEN YEARS AGO THIS WEEK, **A FEVER YOU CAN'T SWEAT OUT** TURNED **PANIC! AT THE DISCO** INTO SUPERSTARS. **BRENDON URIE** EXCLUSIVELY RELIVES THE LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE…

"When we started writing A Fever You Can't Sweat Out I was 17 and had just met the guys. I had my final day of school and three days later we drove to Maryland to make the record. I had a Beatles mop haircut and was listening to a lot of 'emo' bands like Bright Eyes and The Faint. I was a little more extroverted but definitely shy if someone told me to shut up. I wouldn't ever have a retort; they would just be like, 'Hey, you're being too crazy!' and I would immediately feel shame and then just be quiet.

"When I first joined the band, I almost left. I started as the guitar player, and a few months later they heard me singing and they were like, 'Alright, you can be the singer now.' I was gonna go to college and learn to cut hair. My biggest passion was music, but I didn't think I could make a career out of it.

"When we recorded the album, we lived in this studio apartment in College Park, Maryland. It was just one room that was a kitchen and bedroom with bunk beds and it was disgusting. Three days in, our swamp cooler – which basically takes hot, muggy, shitty air from outside and repurposes it for the room inside – broke and flooded our room. We go back to the apartment after a 16-hour day and we'd have to jump from the kitchen counter to the beds. But we were happily miserable, because it was an amazingly exciting time.

"Another time, I put my foot through the wall because I was jumping off the bed, planting my feet on the wall and doing backflips. Our producer, Matt Squire, had rented the apartment for us and I didn't tell him until the last day when we left. He was like, 'Okay, well I'll send you the bill,' and I was like, 'I have *zero* dollars…' We were living off ramen noodles and Pop-Tarts. Once in a while we'd treat ourselves and go to this little deli where we'd get a turkey sandwich and split it between four of us.




"Ryan [Ross, guitar] had written most of the lyrics, but he outsourced to a couple of people. Pete Wentz [who signed the band to his record label, Decaydance] had a hand in helping out here and there. It was very collaborative. A lot of the stuff Ryan wrote about was from books. I wasn't huge on reading because it was required for school, and I fucking hated school, so he definitely opened my eyes to that stuff. The way Chuck Palahniuk wrote was very unique. He would be sarcastic in his writing and that's when we decided we should start writing sarcastically and just be dicks about shit!

"Ryan was very, very shy and didn't have the confidence to sing the words he'd been writing. So, he felt more comfortable letting me play that character. But a lot of it I did relate to – the stuff about feeling betrayed and infidelity. I mean, I had cheated… I didn't have girlfriends, I was just 'seeing' different people and never told them that I was with another person. At one time I was maybe 'hanging out' with, like, five different girls. It wasn't necessarily lying, just withholding truth… That's such a shitty way of saying it! I was just very cavalier, I guess I should say.

"When Pete heard the finished album he was like, 'I think you guys made a fucking great record.' We thought he was crazy for signing us when we'd never even played a show before. When we met him we only had one song and we didn't have all the instruments we needed. We didn't overthink it because we had no experience, it was just this new door that opened up. But yeah, I still think Pete is crazy for signing us. It worked out, but that was a *very* bold move…

"We never thought anyone would be listening to the album 10 years on… When people started coming to shows and telling us how much they loved it, it was a little daunting and very, very shocking. I didn't know how to take it! It was like, 'Oh cool, alright, shit, that's awesome!' I still get weird sometimes, like, 'Really? You like this!?' I haven't listened to the album myself in a long time, but the last time I did, I just sped through it because I don't listen to myself. I'll hear how I used to sing when I was still figuring out what the fuck I was doing, just go, 'Man, you should've taken more time getting vocal lessons!' I didn't think I was good… I still think I'm not great. I've gotten better, I know that, but the sound of my voice irks me! I've definitely changed since then. I don't know if I would be as open-minded if I hadn't gotten to where I am right now. Seeing the world and even being able to come to the UK is pretty amazing.

"If I could go back and talk to 17-year-old Brendon, I would just say, 'Be patient and don't be too crazy.' Maybe the biggest piece of advice would be, 'Keep your head up,' because I think a lot of times discouragement is a very big friend when you're part of this world.

"If I had to sum up that time in my life? I was just a fucking kid. I really was. I had no gauge, no comparison to what we were about to be thrown into. And it was awesome."

**WORDS:** JENNYFER J. WALKER **PHOTOS:** GETTY IMAGES

*This page – Panic! in 2006: (From left) Jon Walker (bass, who would replace Brent Wilson mid-Fever… cycle), Spencer Smith (drums), Brendon Urie and Ryan Ross (guitar). Opposite page: the Panic! big-top rolls around U.S. arenas in 2006*

# "WE WERE WORKING 16 HOURS A DAY, LIVING OFF NOODLES AND POP-TARTS!"

**BRENDON URIE**

## CATCHING A FEVER

SO, **PETE WENTZ**: BRENDON THINKS YOU WERE 'CRAZY' TO SIGN PANIC!. CARE TO EXPLAIN?

"(*Laughs*) It probably was crazy [to sign Panic!]. I went and saw them at this practice space in Las Vegas – they didn't know how to play the songs 'cause they'd never played them live, so it was literally a train wreck that had something special about it. Whether it was the relationship between Brendon and Ryan, there was something there… something about *him*.

"I was a 100 per cent about the songs – the songs were insane! But then I saw them live for the first time, they were wearing basketball shorts and stuff, so that didn't make sense with the songs. Then, when we brought 'em out on the Nintendo Fusion tour in 2005, the first tour we took 'em on, they showed up and all of a sudden they're in paisley suits and it totally made sense. I was like, 'I don't know what's happening…!'

"Nobody was doing that at the time. I knew they had a vision, but I knew we had to refine it – it just needed some sandpaper around the edges. The microphones didn't work at that first show, so it was a hard learning curve, but I think in my head I wished that I'd had somebody who was looking out for us right when we started, maybe somebody who'd been through it, kind of. And that's what really made sense to me about them. They were just *really* nice guys and I felt like it was something I *should* take on."

# LIVE

## RATINGS

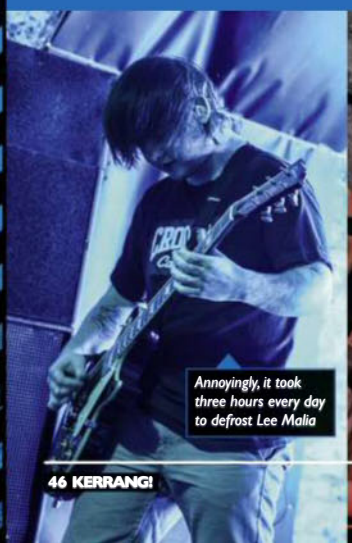
**KKKKK = CLASSIC**
**KKKK = EXCELLENT**
**KKK = GOOD**
**KK = AVERAGE**
**K = POOR**

**STAR SHOUT!**

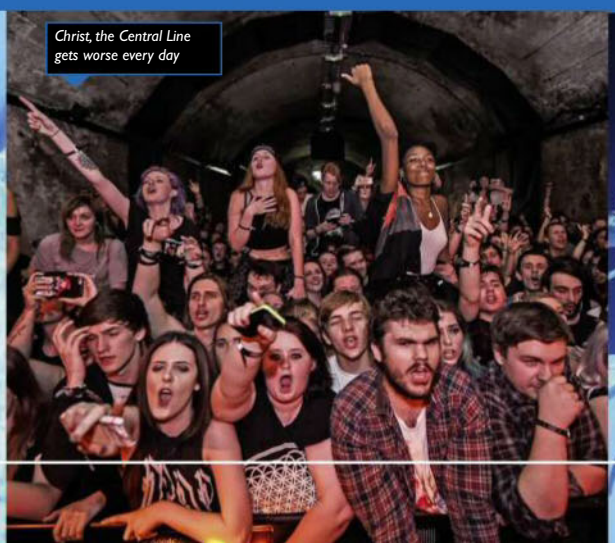
### OLI SYKES
**(VOCALS)**

**BIT CRAMPED. HOW COME YOU'RE THROWING YOUR LAUNCH PARTY HERE?**
"House Of Vans is just a cool place. We wanted to be able to have some of our friends show some art inspired by the album and make it feel a bit more like a party than a normal gig. The guys at Vans always hook us up and the place seemed perfect, so it made sense to have it there."

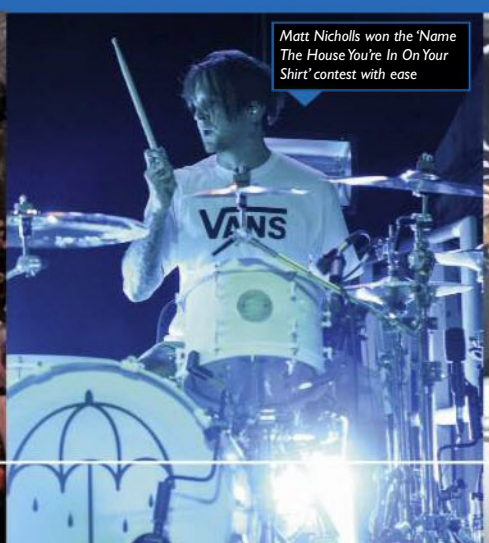
**IT'S A BIT OF A CHANGE FROM THE SHOWS AT READING & LEEDS, INNIT?**
"It's nice to be able to play really small shows every so often. It feels special, I guess. It's definitely different going from playing Reading & Leeds to playing to a few hundred people, but they're both good in their own ways!"



*Annoyingly, it took three hours every day to defrost Lee Malia*



*Christ, the Central Line gets worse every day*




*Matt Nicholls won the 'Name The House You're In On Your Shirt' contest with ease*

Oli really didn't pick a good time to punch himself in the bollocks

# BRING ME THE HORIZON

## HOUSE OF VANS, LONDON. 11.09.15

## KKKKK

LONDON HOSTED TWO TINY GIGS BY TWO GIANT BANDS. HERE'S THE FIRST…

**WORDS:** NICK RUSKELL **PHOTOS:** ANDREW TIMMS

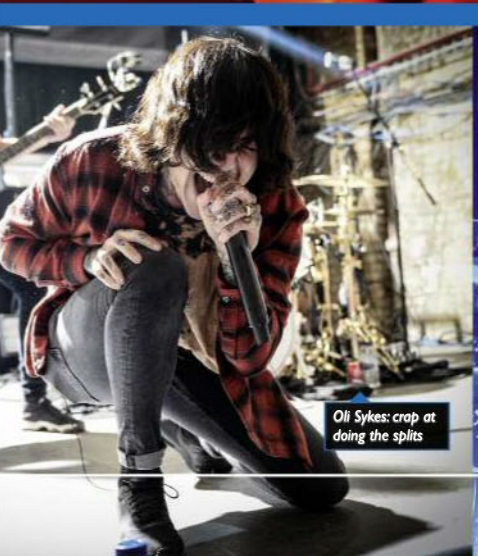
THREE WEEKENDS ago, Bring Me The Horizon annihilated Reading & Leeds. It was massive. There were giant screens with mind-fucking visuals. There were CO2 cannons. There was the word 'C**T' emblazoned in 10-foot-high letters across the stage during Antivist, swearing at tens-of-thousands of people at once. And there was Horizon taking all the weight they lifted at Wembley last Christmas, and flexing what they've got to headliners Metallica. It was a moment that said: nice festival, we'll take it.

Tonight, in the railway arches that form House Of Vans, there is none of that. Well, almost none. There's a gallery of That's The Spirit's art, but there's no screens, no visuals, no big production. Even the signage to the venue is discreet – the band's umbrella logo with an arrow pointing down into the sort of underpass from which you'd imagine the Joker to suddenly emerge. But what we *do* have is Bring Me The Horizon, on the day That's The Spirit is released, crammed into a venue that their forthcoming show at Alexandra Palace could happily swallow whole without burping, with absolutely no let-up on the sheer power they currently wield. It's a wonder the 800 lucky ticket-winners inside have any skin left on their skulls by the end of it.

This may be a one-off to celebrate the release of the new album, but as a sweaty, short, sharp shock, tonight is not about exploring all of the intricacies and depths of its un-heavy, electronic side. Thus, the new cuts we get – Throne, Happy Song, True Friends, Drown – are all the guitar-heavy end of the album's spectrum, detonating with the same force as Can You Feel My Heart and the ever-brutal Shadow Moses. Quite how something like the moody We're Doomed or the electronic Avalanche will go down live remains to be seen, but given how triumphantly Blessed With A Curse provides tonight's one moment of blissed-out calm (well, sort of calm), in those arenas, they'll be winners.

Here tonight, though, it's all about sweating your arse off. In-between trying to break some sort of land-gobbing record, Oli Sykes looks like he's having the time of his life, yelling at the folks in the pit to "Push it fucking back!" as he leads the chaos. Even without all the violent videos that accompanied it at Reading or Wembley, The House Of Wolves is deadly, losing none of its bite, as Oli encourages ever-higher levels of madness. It's proper pandemonium, and the way Bring Me The Horizon control and harness it tonight is the stuff greatness is made of.

So, like Metallica's legendary gig at the tiny 100 Club in 1988 (after which then-new bassist Jason Newsted is said to have passed out, such was the intensity), tonight, Bring Me The Horizon have well and truly blown the bloody doors off a venue now far too small for them, as a treat for fans as they head for greatness. Those who were here will know. Those who weren't, start lying about it now.



Oli Sykes: crap at doing the splits

Jordan Fish's new iPhone: impressive, powerful, hard to fit in your pocket

# MUSE

## ELECTRIC BALLROOM, LONDON. 11.09.15

## KKKK

### TEIGNMOUTH TITANS DETONATE THE BOMB(AST) AT TINY LONDON CLUB GIG

**WORDS:** JAMES HICKIE **PHOTOS:** CHRIS CASEY

A SUPERMASSIVE black hole has incredible crushing power. Throw an item of your choosing into one – a ball, a car, a skyscraper – and even the biggest thing you can imagine will be squeezed into an area smaller than you ever thought possible. Tonight, in similar fashion, Muse – last spotted headlining Download – have chosen to stuff and compress their usual grandstanding stadium shows into a whites-of-the-eyes assault on the 1,100-capacity Electric Ballroom, as a way of celebrating the announcement of their forthcoming world tour. And Matt Bellamy and co prove they're able to slip between stadium supremacy and sweatbox intimacy just as deftly as their Brit-rock juggernaut peers Biffy Clyro – albeit with the odd bit of shrinking pain.

The good Muse first, though. Despite the bombast of his music, Matt isn't generally prone to hyperbole, yet has declared latest album Drones to be his band's finest offering to date. While some fans disagree, the healthy quota of cuts from it blasted out tonight (Reapers, Psycho, The Handler, Mercy) provides the opportunity to re-evaluate them as proper blockbusters, standing tall and powerful in the set. So much so that their vibes have permeated Muse's older tunes, too – with Time Is Running Out recalibrated here as a lustier beast (with added mood lighting, obvs).

Now to be the bearers of some not-so-good Muse. Given that this is an 85-minute show, you'd have assumed there wouldn't be a wasted second. Unfortunately, this downsizing hasn't put paid to *all* the trappings of a 'big' show; with the between-song musical vignettes (featuring jams of Led Zeppelin, AC/DC and Rage Against The Machine numbers) presumably coming at the expense of fan favourites like Bliss, Madness and Assassin – although Matt explains the latter is missing because Chris Wolstenholme "doesn't have the right bass for it". In short: it's clear enough that Muse approach this big-band-in-small-room thing with far less space for spontaneous, do-it-for-the-fuck-of-it dicking about than Green Day or Foo Fighters do.

Perhaps these less vital moments are exaggerated because, at its peak, this gig is as intense and exciting as Muse crammed in a club should be – with the enormous riff-buffet of Stockholm Syndrome and the way Knights Of Cydonia gallops and explodes being genuinely worth the £20 ticket price alone. And that's almost nothing to spend on a one-off like this, and the chance to see these supermassive tunes in a (relatively) super-small venue.

*Chris' sleeping bag/shirt combo was a real winner*

*God had the best seat in the house. Again…*

*Come on, Dom. We know it's a small gig, but you could have bothered bringing both arms*

"No," said Matt, indignantly. "I've got the highest heels here, actually…"

## FAN SHOUT!



**MARK**
***EDGWARE***
"That was incredible! I heard about it on the radio this morning and *had* to be here, as it's such a small venue. Everyone who was here tonight has been a part of history!"



**AUDREY**
***PARIS***
"This is the 10th time I have seen Muse live. I've seen them in big and small venues, and they're great wherever they play. My favourite song tonight was Knights Of Cydonia."



**SEAN**
***CAMDEN***
"I thought they were pretty excellent. I've seen them about eight or nine times, but this is the first time I've seen them in a small venue. They were very good, but I kind of missed the light show."

# REVIEWS

**RATINGS**
**KKKKK = CLASSIC**
**KKKK = EXCELLENT**
**KKK = GOOD**
**KK = AVERAGE**
**K = POOR**

# PARKWAY DRIVE

IRE *(EPITAPH)*

## KKKK

### AUSSIE METALCORE WORLD-BEATERS DO THE EVOLUTION ON FASCINATING FIFTH ALBUM

TAKE A moment to peruse Ire's cover art. On the surface it's a sleek and straightforward display, but on closer inspection you'll notice there's meticulousness at work – a painstakingly crafted arrangement of wood, concrete and paint. It's much the same with Parkway Drive's musical output to date – but with beatdowns, grooves and guttural howls as building materials. You see, for 12 years, the Byron Bay five-piece have made the accomplished look easy, and come to widespread attention as a result. But, while the next step can mean the world is yours for the taking, it can also be yours for the fumbling…

It's not that Winston McCall and the boys aren't keen to step up, it's just that they're clearly more interested in satisfying their own intangible, creative itches. Much like Bring Me The Horizon, Parkway have won acclaim on their own terms and are now moseying on to the next stage of *their* musical journey, and asking you to join them. And while first single Vice Grip may suggest they've already reached mellower, more radio-friendly territory (much to some fans' chagrin), the first thing to note about Ire is that it captures Parkway *in transition to* rather than *at* that next stop. To illustrate; in the context of the record, the PMA-tastic Vice Grip arrives after opening double-header Destroyer and Dying To Believe – both of which provide the sort of straightforward assault we've come to expect, as well as a reminder that the word 'ire' means 'anger'. Crushed, meanwhile, is an atmospheric trawl through '*The land of hypocrisy*', in which Winston finds himself '*Crushed by the fists of God*'. In short: PWD haven't forgotten to pack metalcore's oft-missing ingredient, musical diversity.

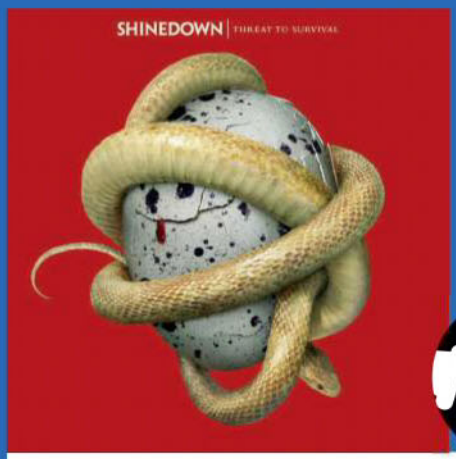
The good news is that the best single representation of this state of flux, namely the track Bottom Feeder, also happens to be the album's finest moment. Initially a bruising hat-tip to Slipknot's Before I Forget, it gives way to a rap-like section that suggests the inclusion of Rage Against The Machine's Bulls On Parade on their set list has left a rather sizeable imprint on Parkway Drive's musical DNA.

So, is it their best album? Well, while it lacks the introductory punch of Killing With A Smile, or the primordial menace of Atlas, more excitingly, it represents a band picking up the creative baton and running with it, with only them knowing where they'll end up. Based on what's on display here, it'll continue to be a riveting ride. And as for this portion of that ride, Ire is Parkway Drive's most *interesting* document to date.

**DOWNLOAD:** Vice Grip, Bottom Feeder.
**FOR FANS OF:** Architects, Northlane.
***JAMES HICKIE***

# "WE'RE ANGRY ABOUT PEOPLE HAVING TO TAKE TO THE STREETS"

**WINSTON McCALL**




TRACK BY TRACK

## SHINEDOWN

THREAT TO SURVIVAL *(ATLANTIC)*

## KKK

***MODERN ROCK'S MOST UNREPENTANTLY CHEESY BAND BRINGS ANOTHER BIG BAG OF BOMBAST***

**1 ASKING FOR IT**
Shinedown have done more than most to resuscitate the kind of big, radio-friendly rock that grunge fatally wounded two decades ago. Asking For It opens their fifth album sounding big, bad and bombastic, with a shameless amount of cheese. *Bon apetit!*

**2 CUT THE CORD**
Blimey, that's a big hook. With a full kids' choir tumbling over a crashing riff, it's like a rock version of Les Misérables.

**3 STATE OF MY HEAD**
After a great start, things settle down with this overly polished trudger. This filler aims for Queen but is actually more local mayor.

**4 OUTCAST**
The riffs crash back in as frontman Brent Smith declares, '*I hope you know I broke the mold like a hammer to a landmine*'. Nice to see he's as humble as ever.

**5 HOW DID YOU LOVE?**
Shinedown don't really do subtle. This is a ballad of sorts, but with a Michael Bay engine. We're gonna need a bigger wind machine.

**6 IT ALL ADDS UP**
Things get sonically interesting as Shinedown add a grinding mechanical beat to a typically swelling chorus. It's like Meat Loaf and Killing Joke got together for a jam.

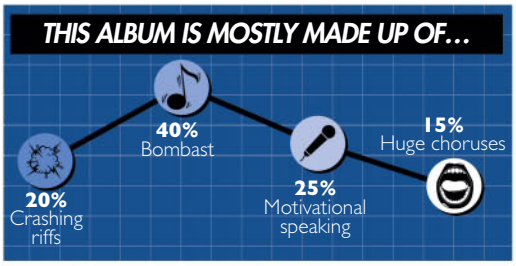
**7 OBLIVION**
And here's another big, mid-paced stomper of the kind Shinedown do so well. It also has a bit that goes '*Ay-oh-ay-oh-ay-ar*', which verges on Old MacDonald Had A Farm.

**8 DANGEROUS**
As Brent sings about being '*Isolated by the mainstream with the current up against me*', you've got to wonder if the arena-filling rock radio star has a different idea of underground and mainstream to the rest of us.

**9 THICK AS THIEVES**
There's such a thing as too much production. This takes us into the realms of '80s synth-rock. And not in a good way.

**10 BLACK CADILLAC**
This is better, starting off like Elton John rocking the piano before the big guitar groove kicks in.

**11 MISFITS**
'*They call us crazy 'cause we never fit in / We never bothered keeping up with their trends*',, Brent croons. It's a bit of a bland closer musically, but it's a sentiment that fits the album – and Shinedown – perfectly.




WORDS: PAUL TRAVERS

**THE INSIDER**
**WINSTON McCALL**
**(VOCALS)**

**ARE YOU HAPPY WITH IRE, WINSTON?**
"We're all really stoked on it. It's been a really weird time, because normally by this point in time we've played it to a bunch of people and have had a load of feedback. But we've had to lock it down because shit started leaking – so, no-one's heard it! There's literally 20 or 30 people in the world who have heard it. The only interaction we've had with people about the record has been ourselves talking about it. It's got to a point where it's almost old for us, and we've never been in that situation before!"

**WHAT'S MADE YOU SO ANGRY ON THE ALBUM?**
"There's a lot of different stuff on there. But the main things that have happened in our personal lives while we were writing were very locally based, but were still examples of much larger problems. There's a lot of small-town politics going on in our area, perfect examples of corruption and the masses being fucked over by the few. Over the last two years, a lot of things have happened that have had to drive people to the streets to make things stop. This is what shit is coming to. It's simply that we've got to the point, and this is where the title Ire comes from."

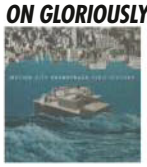
**WHAT'S YOUR PERSONAL FAVOURITE MOMENT ON IRE?**
"One of them is Writing's On The Wall, because I never believed that a song sounding that way was something Parkway would ever be capable of. It still moves me that we created that piece of music. It's above anything I thought we were capable of."

# MOTION CITY SOUNDTRACK

PANIC STATIONS *(EPITAPH)*

## KKKK

### U.S. GEEK-PUNKS GET THEIR MOJO BACK ON GLORIOUSLY CATCHY SIXTH ALBUM



MOTION CITY Soundtrack's My Dinosaur Life album was a perfect blend of sweet melody, self-loathing, and total geekdom. But then, on follow-up Go, they seemed to turn all three of those elements down. Thank the Lord, then, that Justin Pierre and co have rediscovered themselves on Panic Stations. Lose Control is a sunny burst of pop that's more awkward than Louis Theroux on a first date, while TKO boasts perhaps the most Weezer-ish riff this band have ever written. As ever, the bright smiles of the music are a cunning disguise for Justin's pained lyrics, lamenting how he's looking for '*A reason to live*' (It's A Pleasure To Meet You) and how '*I don't mind the abuse anymore*' (TKO). Like a poison ice cream, MCS are once again delicious, but deadly.

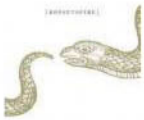
**DOWNLOAD:** Lose Control.
**FOR FANS OF:** Weezer, Fall Out Boy.
***NICK RUSKELL***

# BOYSETSFIRE

BOYSETSFIRE *(END HITS)*

## KKK

### POST-HARDCORE VETERANS ATTEMPT TO FAN THE FLAMES. ALMOST BLOW THEM OUT



APART FROM grinding poverty and an endless tour schedule, one of the reasons most hardcore bands don't stick around is that playing such stripped-down music doesn't lead to many new ideas. The second album to follow a seven-year recording hiatus that ended in 2013, Boysetsfire have now run out of album titles, too. This self-titled LP hangs together fine, the pounding Don't Panic shifting into the poised Ordinary Lives as a credit to the creativity they have left. However, from the band whose After The Eulogy album made their name 15 years ago, this often sounds more like a rowdy, extended wake than a rebirth.

**DOWNLOAD:** One Match.
**FOR FANS OF:** Rise Against, Thrice, Ignite.
***ALISTAIR LAWRENCE***

# CREEPER

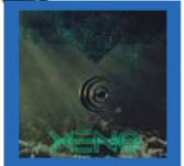
THE CALLOUS HEART *(ROADRUNNER)*

## KKKK

### SOUTH COAST NEW GRAVERS GIVE US A SECOND DOSE OF MISERY BUSINESS

WHEN A band's debut EP earns the sort of underground buzz that Creeper's self-titled first record did, the temptation must be to try to pen a carbon copy and bottle lightning. If it ain't broke, don't fix it and all that. It's to the quintet's credit, then, that while The Callous Heart is still a New Grave party, it is also a record unafraid to step off into more esoteric, experimental territory. Sure, AFI and Alkaline Trio fans will find plenty of raucous, rattling moments to ball their fists to here, but it's the Bowie-meets-Brand New death grip of sprawling closer Henley's Ghost where the full, MCR-scale potential of this band is truly unlocked for the first time. This, then, is the sound of one of the most exciting bands in Britain getting even more exciting.

**DOWNLOAD:** Henley's Ghost.
**FOR FANS OF:** AFI, My Chemical Romance.
***TOMAS DOYLE***



## LYRIC OF THE WEEK

*'I'm pulling out my soul to prove I'm alive'.* Listen, Ken from Crossfaith, that may very well be the case, but there is a time and a place for that sort of thing, and at the dinner table while we're telling you how good your new album is isn't either. Seriously – you animal.

**BAND:** Crossfaith
**SONG:** Xeno
**ALBUM:** Xeno

## SLEEVE OF THE WEEK

Why are there six things on this counter? Why? Malevolence is only New Years Day's third album. Added with their EPs, it totals six releases, but that's not very evil or goth. Maybe Ash Costello just really, really likes the number six, and also really likes weird ways of writing numbers down?

## VIDEO OF THE WEEK

**REPENTLESS, SLAYER**

Slayer playing in a prison? Pfft, they're just ripping off St. Ang… HOLY SHIT! LOOK AT ALL THE BLOOD, VIOLENCE AND NASTY STUFF! And that's before horror legend Danny Trejo sticks his knife in…

# THE DEAR HUNTER

ACT IV: REBIRTH IN REPRISE *(RUDE)*

## KKKK

### ECCENTRIC LONG ISLAND POP-PROGSTERS DELIVER A LUSH, COMPLEX MASTERPIECE

CAN THOSE unfamiliar with the three previous records from this proposed six-album narrative still get something from it? The answer is an overwhelming 'yes', as this may well be the year's most melodically ambitious release. Within seconds, opener Rebirth unspools earworm after glorious earworm, and there's no let-up across the 14 tracks that follow it. You'd need a whole book to articulate just what the hell it's all about and, musically speaking, it has just as much in common with Electric Light Orchestra and The Beach Boys as it does My Chemical Romance and Fall Out Boy – but this is something very special indeed. Want an album you can live in? You've got a magical home here.

**DOWNLOAD:** Waves.
**FOR FANS OF:** Fall Out Boy, MCR.
***JAMES HICKIE***

# W.A.S.P.

GOLGOTHA *(NAPALM)*

## KKK

### BLACKIE LAWLESS AND FRIENDS SHOW NO MERCY WITH BALL-CRUSHING RETURN

SURE, IT'S easy to poke fun at a glam metal band most (in)famous for exploding codpieces. But no amount of burnt pubes can detract from the fact that Golgotha rocks. Like a beast. The 15th full-length of W.A.S.P.'s 33-year career captures the band riffing and snarling their way through nine bolshy metal stompers, and from start to finish it's hooks, attitude and killer songwriting galore. It might not have anything like mega-hit L.O.V.E. Machine on it, but it does have the lithe, lairy and gripping Falling Under. Scream, meanwhile, could go toe-to-toe with any Guns N' Roses tune for attitude, proving W.A.S.P. still have plenty of sting left.

**DOWNLOAD:** Scream.
**FOR FANS OF:** Avenged Sevenfold, Kiss.
***DAN SLESSOR***

# ONLY RIVALS

LIFE IS PERFECT *(SO)*

## KKKK

### RISING DUBLIN ROCKERS DROP A DEBUT WORTHY OF WORLD DOMINATION

'MASSIVE' IS Only Rivals' modus operandi – a mix of Linkin Park, My Chem and the odd touch of Muse. The Dublin quartet come on hungry for rock supremacy and – inexplicably Americanised accents aside – this debut LP sounds calibrated for superstardom. Replace // Exchange shifts gears, with incredible deftness, from up-tempo frivolity to cathartic eruption, while Sing intensifies the emotion – fuelled by gang vocals and stirring songwriting. Standout closer Too Many Churches, meanwhile, melds heart-tugging melancholy and adrenalized power to thrilling effect. As a warning-shot, this record's set to echo far and wide. Brace for impact.

**DOWNLOAD:** Replace // Exchange.
**FOR FANS OF:** Linkin Park, Young Guns.
***SAM LAW***

# TELLISON

HOPE FADING NIGHTLY *(ALCOPOP)*

## KKK

### LONDON UNDERDOGS' RIOTOUS THIRD PROVES SLOW AND STEADY WINS THE RACE

TELLISON HAVE been around for 10 years now and average an album once every four years. They're not going to break any land speed records at that pace, but when the results are this gloriously urgent it's well worth the wait. Coupling smart lyrics with wiry guitar pop, Tellison fuels Boy's tales of faded glories with huge gutsy choruses, while the buzzing riffs of Tact Is Dead seethe with post-education minimum wage dissatisfaction. Watching your youth slip away in bars and dead-end jobs is demoralising, but it's cathartic tunes like Orion that keep hope in a better tomorrow alive. Just don't leave it so long next time, eh, lads?

**DOWNLOAD:** Tact Is Dead, Wrecker.
**FOR FANS OF:** The Menzingers, The Xcerts.
***JAMES MACKINNON***

RAMMSTEIN ARE a funny old bunch. Mysterious. Dangerous. Occasionally hilarious. How else could you explain Till Lindemann, perhaps the most butch, German man in all of Deutschland, taking to the stage in tights and a feather boa, to sing songs about cannibals (Mein Teil), trying to get your end away in Germany (Pussy) and how Rammstein are better than you (Rammlied). Surprisingly, though, gigs in Amerika have not been a habit Rammstein have picked up, only really touring properly in the '90s. Thus, their last show in New York – Madison Square Garden in 2010, their first in a decade

## ON THE STEREO

**1 GERARD WAY – PINKISH**
UNRELEASED GERARD SONG KLAXON! Get excited, people, we're having a Gerard-attack over here.

**2 OF MICE & MEN – NEVER GIVING UP**
They may be taking time off due to Austin Carlile's health, but we like this sentiment. Get well soon, bro!

**3 GHOST – FROM THE PINNACLE...**
Herein lies the story of Papa Emeritus III and his ascension to being Ghost's singer. Not just a bloke in a mask. Oh no siree.

**4 FIGHTSTAR – SHARP TONGUE**
Welcome back! This hardcore haymaker is like you never left.

**5 KILLING JOKE – I AM THE VIRUS**
A new portent of doom from Britain's nuttiest band. Get scared.

# THE DEAD WEATHER

DODGE & BURN *(THIRD MAN)*

## KKK

***ROCK'S MOST SWAGGERING MAN RETURNS WITH A WHOLE BAG OF, WELL, SWAG***

IF NOTHING else, Jack White is a man you can depend on for a dirty groove and a greasy riff. Which he serves up amply here, as well as handling drum duties. But no matter what he's on, the man is just a human groove, and the rest of the cats in The Dead Weather lock into it seamlessly here. Imagine Black Sabbath busking, with a woman with a piece of leather for a voice (Alison Mosshart), and you have an idea of the dirty, bar-room sleaze that runs through Buzzkill(er) and the broken-hearted lament of I Feel Love (Every Million Miles). Proof once more that if you want killer bluesy rock, White is your man.

**DOWNLOAD:** Buzzkill(er).
**FOR FANS OF:** Black Sabbath, Rival Sons.
***NICK RUSKELL***

# CHRIS CORNELL

HIGHER TRUTH *(UNIVERSAL)*

## KKKKK

***SOUNDGARDEN'S SINGER UNPLUGS HIS GUITAR AND TUNES OUT THE PAST***

AS YOU may recall, Chris Cornell's otherwise stunning solo career imploded in 2009. Scratching a musical itch no-one particularly wanted to hear, his last album, Scream, was an R&B wigout produced by hip-hop supremo Timba-wicky-wicky-land. Of course, Chris has long since bounced back with the Soungarden reunion and a solo acoustic tour that saw him strip the distortion out of classic songs from across his back catalogue to magnificent effect. This is where Higher Truth picks things up. For his first all-acoustic album, The Man With The Big Voice is asking The Big Questions, with delicately fretted songs like Dead Wishes contemplating not only who we are, but also why we are. Yet for all the cosmic soul-searching, it's that old chestnut – love – that will turn your eyes into miniature waterfalls on Before We Disappear. Not only is it moving, it's arguably one of the best records Chris has made in the last 15 years.

**DOWNLOAD:** Dead Wishes.
**FOR FANS OF:** Eddie Vedder, Mad Season.
***GEORGE GARNER***

– was not something to go undocumented, which they've done on **RAMMSTEIN IN AMERIKA (KKKK).** The show, as expected, is an explosion of fire, costume and Teutonic power. But what really makes this special is the two-hour movie of footage from the band's personal touring archives, charting their rise over the pond with input from Korn and System Of A Down, and Till Lindemann and keyboardist Flake Lorenz' '90s arrest for simulating sodomy onstage (which actually gets funnier every time it gets mentioned with a straight face). It's a rare look behind the curtain of this most enigmatic of bands, and well worth a peek.

WORDS: NICK RUSKELL

# Jimmy Eat World

# BLEED AMERICAN

(DREAMWORKS, 2001)

***THE UNEXPECTED HIT THAT TOOK EMO FROM THE UNDERGROUND TO THE TOP OF MOUNT ROCK***

AT THE turn of the century, 'emo' was far from a mainstream phenomenon. It was less a recognisable, marketable scene and more a niche club for vinyl-collecting obsessives discovering bands like Further Seems Forever, The Appleseed Cast and Jimmy Eat World via Deep Elm Records' The Emo Diaries series.

For better or worse, Bleed American – with the title changed to Jimmy Eat World in the wake of 9/11 – changed all that. Mixing heart-baring lyrics with sweeping pop sensibilities and bolstered by the pop-punk perfection of smash-hit single The Middle, Jimmy Eat World's fourth full-length smashed those mainstream doors wide open for everyone from My Chemical Romance to Fall Out Boy to follow through.

It was an unlikely success, and Jimmy Eat World neither looked nor acted like rockstars. Their previous album, Clarity, has since achieved cult status but, at the time, it sold around 30,000 copies, prompting their label Capitol to drop the band. Bleed American was self-financed and recorded without a label, but when it finally came out on Dreamworks in 2001, it exploded. Now, 14 years after changing the rock world, frontman Jim Adkins is back, performing solo, acoustic music. But the spirit remains the same as it did when he unexpectedly became the leader of rock's biggest new movement.

***YOU ENTERED THIS ALBUM HAVING BEEN DITCHED BY YOUR LABEL. HOW WAS THE MOOD IN THE CAMP?***

JIM ADKINS (*VOCALS/GUITAR*): "The mood was optimistic. What we knew was that we were on tour and every time we came back to a city there'd be more people. Things were moving up and up for us, so the whole label thing was just background noise to what we were doing."

***HOW DID YOU FUND THE ALBUM?***

"We basically just toured to fund the album. We did have day jobs to pay our rent but we made all the money to make Bleed American from touring. We worked out an arrangement with [producer] Mark Trombino where we'd pay him what we could and we'd cut him in at the back end when, and if, it sold. That's a big reason why the record exists in the shape it did. We paid the expenses and did it all ourselves, but Mark was willing to put his fee for his time and effort on hold indefinitely."

***WHY DID YOU RERELEASE BLEED AMERICAN AS A SELF-TITLED ALBUM?***

"It was a decision we came to in the wake of 9/11. We worked too hard making that record and putting our souls into it to have it be something that people came to with a bias towards. We wanted people to hear it objectively and derive their own conclusions from it on their own terms. It seemed like the best way to achieve that."

***HOW DID IT FEEL HAVING A GENUINE SMASH HIT ON YOUR HANDS?***

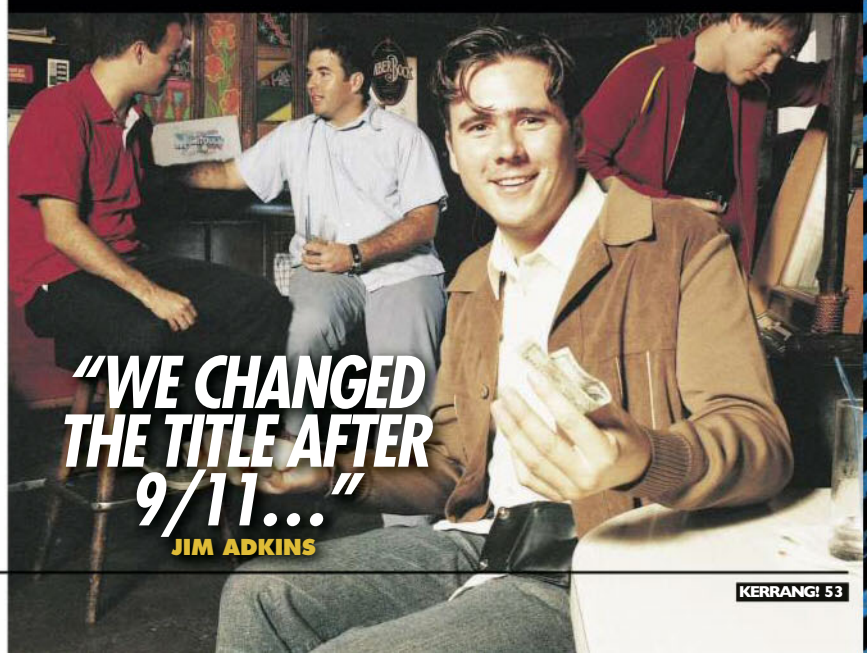
"None of us started playing with the idea that we would be successful. It was always just because it was fun and we always tried to set ourselves realistic goals in the process. To have those goals shattered and raised beyond anything you could imagine and beyond anything you were asking for is mind-boggling. I shut down a little bit on a personal level. It was self-preservation because it was such a crazy alternate universe we found ourselves in."

***DO WE HAVE YOU TO THANK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT EMO EXPLOSION?***

"You know what? That's really not up to me to decide. I've kinda stopped trying to categorise things. I'm still proud of this album and I just hope that it means something different to everybody."

Kerrang! Radio play it all at 10pm, September 24!

WORDS: PAUL TRAVERS



# K!LOBBER

# MU$T HAV£S

ALL THE BEST GEAR FROM THE FOUR CORNERS OF PLANET ROCK AND BEYOND!

When AA's tour bus breaks down, do you think they call the AA? And then they laugh about it with the mechanic and they start a band on the roadside and call it Car-sking Alexandria? Us neither.
**£9.99 Grindstore.com**

This isn't waterproof. Neither should you try to make a cut-out umbrella from it. How would it open? Exactly…
**£25 Horizonsupply.co**

This is the only time a jokey apron has ever actually been close to funny. Well played, Homer.
**$24.95 (£16.06) Shop.Fox.com**

A black Veil shirt. There, we've confused you. Now you don't know who you are or what year it is. You're welcome.
**£13.50 Plastichead.com**

Pokémon hat: put it on and freak out as the world turns into a weird, rushing background.
**£12.99 Forbiddenplanet.com**

Here's something we've never seen: 1970s Blue Peter presenter Peter Purvis in a PVRIS shirt. Fix that, mate…
**£13.50 Plastichead.com**

Two small details we love about Shaun: he's got red on him, and (probably less intentional) his beard looks like the Star Wars Rebel Alliance symbol. Sadly, no matter how loud we played Queen's Don't Stop Me Now at him, he doesn't start battering zombie heads in with his cricket bat. Note our suggestion, toy people.
**£8.99 Forbiddenplanet.com**

We never had TA down as the far-out types, but here we have it: a polar bear in space.
**£9.99 Grindstore.com**

According to Back To The Future II, Jaws 19 is out in a few weeks. We've seen no ads, though. Lazy, Spielberg.
**£20 Lastexittonowhere.com**

Pull the otter one, there weren't any otters in GTA. The only way it could have been improved.
**£9.99 Grindstore.com**

What's this egg doing wrong down the gym? That's right – neglecting leg day. The dick.
**$20 (£12.87) Threadless.com**

Think: if there was an animal that perfectly represented metal-pop-punk, what would it be? Unicorn. Duh.
**£16.99 Grindstore.com**

What every Star Wars fan desires is to look like they work in IT support on the Death Star. Prayers. Answered.
**£13.50 Plastichead.com**

According to the speech bubbles on these killer Disney Vans, Donald Duck is a potty mouth of Corey Taylor proportions. And no wonder, his webbed duck feet wouldn't fit in trainers with his own face on. You'd be livid, too, man.
**£52 Vans.co.uk**

"But how are we going to get the blueprints to the Rebel vehicles?" asked Vader. "If only they were all over a shirt…"
**£13.50 Plastichead.com**

Do not panic: Minecraft has not leaked out of your computer and become real. It's just Lego. Awesome Lego.
**£15.99 Amazon.co.uk**

You know what's crap about Batman's utility belt? It can't carry fuck all if it's bigger than about five centimetres. No room for a coat, books, lunchbox… And it's a bastard to take off to go to the toilet. This is way better.
**£25.99 Grindstore.com**

For some, the War Of The Roses is still going on. Hence Marmz nailing their Yorkshire colours to a shirt.
**£13.50 Plastichead.com**

The Regular Show is one of those cartoons that'll turn your brain to mush. So, yeah, coffee would be a good idea.
**£13.50 Plastichead.com**

# IRON MAIDEN

## WE'VE GONE MAIDEN MAD! SO, WE WENT ON *'A SHOPPING SPREE, YEAH, A SHOPPING SPREE'*

The Eddie from The Book Of Souls is the best one Maiden have had for years. He looks like he's about to curse you or something. So, of course you want him on your T-shirt.
**£20**
**Ironmaiden.com**

This is a recreation of Maiden's classic World Slavery Tour shirt from '85. If you have an original white version, it will probably have turned brown by now. So, this is staggeringly accurate.
**£25**
**Ironmaiden.com**

*'I'll take my pint and I'll take yours, too'* goes the song (sort of). But you can only carry two pints, unless you're an octopus. But with this tray, you can carry loads and be the king of the party.
**£11.99**
**Ironmaidenbeer.com**

Bested only by darts as the world's most metal sport, it's only natural that Maiden should have their own rugby ball. Sadly, they don't also have a range of gumshields and cauliflower ears.
**£15**
**Ironmaiden.com**

Pubs don't like it when you steal their glasses. Even when they're the best pint pots ever created by man's fair hand. Buy your own. But then you'll have to think of another way to get barred.
**£15**
**Ironmaiden.com**

See that face Eddie's pulling there? Had a mouthful of wine after brushing his teeth, didn't he? That's gross. Before you brush your teeth, however, it's actually very nice.
**£18.50**
**Ironmaiden.com**

DON'T MISS

# BULLET FOR MY VALENTINE

## THE WELSH METALLERS ARE ON THE ROAD WITH THEIR NEW ALBUM! JUST DON'T FORGET TO TAKE SOME AIR FRESHENER…

***YOU HAVE A KILLER NUMBER THREE-CHARTING ALBUM FULL OF SONGS TO PLAY ON THIS TOUR – HOW EXCITED DOES THAT MAKE YOU TO GET IN THE TOUR BUS AND GO?***

MATT TUCK (*VOCALS/GUITAR*): "Yeah, we're super-excited to get back out there and to play these new songs live! The album has blown up globally, so I couldn't be happier with the way things have gone so far. The set is gonna be a good mix of old and new, so hopefully something for everyone, although the focus will be on the tracks from Venom."

***YOU'RE PLAYING SMALLER VENUES ON THIS TOUR AND SOME OF THEM AREN'T THAT FAR APART DISTANCE-WISE (E.G. GUILDFORD AND READING). WHAT WAS THE REASONING BEHIND THAT?***

"We just wanted to do something different this time around, so a regional tour was the obvious choice as it's something we haven't done for many years now! It's something we knew our fans would appreciate."

***YOUR NEW BASSIST, JAMIE MATHIAS, HAS BEEN IN THE BAND FOR A WHILE NOW – HAS HE FULLY SETTLED IN?***

"Yeah, he's done great! Obviously he's walked into quite a high-profile, high-pressure situation, but he's doing awesome and is taking it all in his stride, which has been very admirable. Especially as he recently became a dad whilst we were on the Slipknot run in the States – there's never a dull moment!"

> ***"PADGE'S ASS IS THE WORST THING ON TOUR!"***
> **MATT TUCK**

***WHAT COULD WE EXPECT TO FIND IF WE TOOK A RIDE ON THE BULLET FOR MY VALENTINE BUS FOR A FEW DAYS?***

"Not a lot, to be honest… when we're on the bus it's usually just used for sleeping whilst we're travelling, so you'd just find a bunch of sleepy band members and crew. We've had some crazy moments in the past but these days it's quite a quiet reserved vibe on the bus. Although the FIFA tournaments can get quite heated (*laughs*)!"

***WHAT'S THE WORST NOISE YOU'VE EVER HEARD ON TOUR?***

"[Guitarist] Padge's ass is the worst thing on tour in general… the noise, the smell… it's hideous."

***WHAT'S ONE THING YOU'D LIKE TO ACHIEVE WITH BULLET THAT YOU HAVEN'T YET? AND HOW DO YOU PLAN TO DO IT?***

"We've ticked off everything that we ever set out to do as a band and so much more! I think the only thing now would to be to headline Download Festival. We've been one from the top a few times now and have already headlined the second stage, so it feels like there's only one place left to go… so fingers crossed one day we'll be given that opportunity."

**DATES:** Belfast Ulster Hall September 28, Dublin Olympia Theatre 29, O2 Academy Bournemouth October 1, Reading Hexagon 2, Guildford G Live 3, Aylesbury Theatre 5, Stoke Victoria Hall 6, Lincoln Engine Shed 7, York Barbican 9, Aberdeen Music Hall 10, Dunfermline Alhambra 11, Middlesbrough Town Hall 13, Carlisle Sands 14, O2 Academy Leicester 16, Bexhill De La Warr Pavilion 17, Folkestone Leas Cliff Hall 18, Swansea Brangwyn Hall 20, O2 Guildhall Southampton 21, Ipswich Regent Corn Exchange 22. Support: While She Sleeps, coldrain.

PHOTO: IAN COLLINS

# YOUR WEEK!

## KERRANG! DAY SEPTEMBER 23

**BRIGHTON** Between The Buried & Me, Haken (Haunt)
**BRISTOL** Enslaved, Grand Magnus (Marble Factory)
**DOVER** OPM (Priory)
**HOLYHEAD** Wheatus, Mike Doughty, The Hipstones, Gabrielle Sterbenz (Ucheldre Centre)
**LONDON** The Treatment, The Wild Lies, The Fallen State (Barfly, Camden)
**MANCHESTER** State Champs, Knuckle Puck, ROAM (Sound Control)
**NOTTINGHAM** Danko Jones (Bodega)
**SOUTHAMPTON** Wolf Alice, Drenge, Made Violent (O2 Guildhall Southampton)

## THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 24

**BIRMINGHAM** Surfer Blood (Hare & Hounds)
**BRIGHTON** OPM (Sticky Mike's)
**LONDON** Enslaved, Grand Magnus (O2 Academy Islington)
**MANCHESTER** Danko Jones (Sound Control)
**NOTTINGHAM** State Champs, Knuckle Puck, ROAM (Rescue Rooms)
**RUGBY** Mallory Knox, We Are The Ocean, Go Primitive (Rugby Village)
**WOLVERHAMPTON** Enslaved, Grand Magnus (Slade Rooms)

## FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 25

**GLASGOW** Surfer Blood (Broadcast)
**LONDON** Devil Sold His Soul, Alaya, No Consequence, Heights (Barfly, Camden)
**LONDON** Biters (Jubilee Club @ Barfly, Camden)
**LONDON** State Champs, Knuckle Puck, ROAM (O2 Academy Islington)
**LONDON** Danko Jones (Underworld, Camden)
**MANCHESTER** Wolf Alice, Drenge, Made Violent (Albert Hall)
**OXFORD** Blacklisters (Wheatsheaf)
**SWANSEA** OPM (Scene)

## SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 26

**BRIGHTON** SikTh, Martyr Defiled, Black Tongue, Dead Harts, TRC (Breakout Festival@Racecourse)
**DERBY** I.C.O.N (Hairy Dog)
**DUBLIN** Enslaved, Grand Magnus (Button Factory)
**LEEDS** Danko Jones (Key Club)
**LIVERPOOL** Evil Blizzard (Psych Festival)
**LONDON** Stoneghost, Skreamers (Borderline)
**LONDON** Wolf Alice, Drenge, Made Violent (O2 Academy Brixton)
**LONDON** Blacklisters (Shacklewell Arms)
**MANCHESTER** The Dead XIII (Factory 251)
**NOTTINGHAM** Biters (Rock City)
**SOUTHAMPTON** State Champs, Knuckle Puck, ROAM (1865)

## SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 27

**BOURNEMOUTH** OPM (Mr Kyps)
**BRISTOL** Danko Jones (Exchange)
**MANCHESTER** Enslaved, Grand Magnus (Academy 3)
**NEWCASTLE** Surfer Blood (Cluny)
**SOUTHAMPTON** Biters (Joiners)

## MONDAY SEPTEMBER 28

**BELFAST** Bullet For My Valentine, While She Sleeps, coldrain (Ulster Hall)
**BRIGHTON** Enslaved, Grand Magnus (Concorde 2)
**BRISTOL** Boy Jumps Ship, Only Rivals (Louisiana)
**BRISTOL** Biters (Thekla)
**GLASGOW** Mallory Knox, Set It Off, The Xcerts (O2 ABC Glasgow)
**LONDON** Cypher16, New Device, Black Sixteen, RSJ (Barfly, Camden)
**NORWICH** Surfer Blood (Arts Centre)

## TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 29

**BIRMINGHAM** Boy Jumps Ship, Only Rivals (Rainbow)
**DUBLIN** Bullet For My Valentine, While She Sleeps, coldrain (Olympia Theatre)
**LEEDS** Wheatus, Mike Doughty, The Hipstones, Gabrielle Sterbenz (Key Club)
**MANCHESTER** Mallory Knox, Set It Off, The Xcerts (Ritz)
**NORWICH** Biters (Waterfront Studio)
**PLYMOUTH** Tribulation (Junction)

## RIDER OF THE WEEK

**BAND: L7**

Make sure the Los Angeles grungers' milk is fresh, please. They don't want any of that funky stuff…

24 bottles of Peroni
6 Amstel Light
2 non-alcoholic beers
2 bottles of quality white wine (Sauvignon Blanc, Chablis, Pinot Gris)
1 bottle of quality red wine (Rioja, Primitivo, Chianti)
1 bottle of quality champagne
12 cans of Schweppes soda waters
2 large bottles of Perrier water
1 small bottle of bitters
6 large bottles of still water
1 mixed case of soft drinks to include Diet Cokes
24 plastic bottles of still mineral water
1 large loaf of whole grain bread
12 whole grain pita breads
3 packs of pre-washed lettuce for sandwiches and salads (to include rocket, kale and romaine)
1 each pack of sliced meats (to include ham, beef and chicken)
1 pack of smoked salmon
2 cucumbers
1 raw vegetable plate mix
6 fresh lemons
1 bunch of ripe bananas
1 fresh fruit selection (to include small grapefuits/hybrid citrus)
2 ripe avocados
6 natural organic yogurts
1 large Greek style (no sugar)
1 tub of Quark
6 mixed yogurts w/fruit
1 mezze-style dip selection (vegetarian)
1 large hummus
1 tray of other style vegetarian mezze dishes (e.g. roasted eggplant dip, greek cheeses)
1 mixed cheese plate (organic and fancy – sliced and unsliced)
1 cream cheese spread
1 litre of whole organic milk (the fresher the better)
1 litre of low-fat milk
1 almond milk
1 other nut milk when available
1 litre of half-and-half milk cream for coffee – organic
1 box of granola low sugar or sugar-free
1 pack of cashews and/or almonds
1 pack of mixed nuts and raisins
1 pack of dried fruit
1 pack of chocolate-covered almonds (organic)
1 bottle of olive oil
1 organic Mayonnaise
Salt and pepper
1 bottle of apple cider vinegar (health food quality)
1 tub of butter
1 sugar selection (to include ra/brown sugar for coffee)
2 packs of moist wipes for make-up removal

## CAN'T GET TO A GIG?

THEN HERE'S SOME OTHER STUFF TO KEEP YOUR EYES/EARS BUSY

### MARILYN MANSON: THE STREAMED 10

**KERRANG! TV – SEP 24, 12AM**

Is your day not feeling creepy enough? Then turn on Kerrang! TV for 10 of Manson's best videos. All of which are guaranteed to up the weird factor by 666 per cent.

### MUSE LIVE AT THE ELECTRIC BALLROOM

**YOUTUBE**

Didn't manage to bag a ticket to this super-exclusive, and not to mention last-minute, gig? Then grab your laptop and log on to YouTube to watch these shaky, but awesome, fan-filmed videos from the show. Oh, and don't forget to plug your laptop in first, baby.

### QUEEN: LIVE IN RIO

**SKY ARTS – ON DEMAND**

Fancy a trip to Rio de Janeiro? Then forget saving up and booking a flight, because Sky Arts On Demand can take you there for free (well, for the price of a Sky subscription). Once you get off the imaginary plane, you'll be whisked in an imaginary car to see Queen play a very real gig. Insert joke about real life/fantasy here.

# MY FIRST GIG

**WHO: BON JOVI, METLIFE STADIUM (?), NEW JERSEY, 2005/6**

WAS 10-YEAR-OLD CHRISSY COSTANZA A ROCKSTAR WHEN SHE WENT TO SEE BON JOVI FOR THE FIRST TIME? NO, BUT SHE WAS HALFWAY THERE…

### CHRISSY COSTANZA, AGAINST THE CURRENT

"The first concert I ever attended was Bon Jovi when I was 10 years old. My family were really, really, *really* big Bon Jovi fans – they were always listening to him at family parties. I went to sleep over at my aunt's one night and we made scrapbooks with Bon Jovi lyrics. We were hardcore!

"I saw him once on the Have A Nice Day Tour when I was 10, and I saw him again when I was 11. It was the best day! I want to say it was at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey, or something like that, it was at some stadium. I went with my mum for one, and the other I went with my mum, my aunt, like, everyone, and everyone was going crazy!

"I definitely remember Livin' On A Prayer. Having an entire stadium singing that song together… it was just one of those moments! I also remember being the youngest person there but also just how much energy they had onstage. Every moment was enthralling and that was one of the things where I was just like, 'I need to do this. That needs to be me. I want to be up there. That's what I want to do!'

"I don't think it was the first thing that *made* me wanna do this, just because I've always kind of had that in me. My aunt was actually telling me the other day, 'We used to do karaoke in our basement and you would not forfeit the mic to anyone! That was your mic!' And I was, like, four or five years old. She was like, 'That's your mic! That was your stage!' (*Laughs*) And that's how it's always been!"

GENERAL ADMISSION

WORDS: RYAN COOPER

ALOUD.COM
buy your tickets from www.aloud.com

SPOTLIGHT ON...

# NOTTINGHAM

## THE CITY RESPONSIBLE FOR ROBIN HOOD AND A WHOLE LOAD OF ROCK...

MATT REYNOLDS (VOCALS/GUITAR) **HECK**

***WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT THE NOTTINGHAM SCENE?***

"The local scene is probably healthier than it has ever been at the minute and it's the awesome independent venues that make it that way. There's a tiny studio space just on the outskirts of the town centre called **JT Soar**. It used to be a fruit and veg warehouse but now they put on bands from all over the world. We once did a secret show there before we went out on the **Kerrang! Tour** [2014], we were billed as '**The Notorious BG**'. It felt pretty dangerous in that tiny room."

***WHAT ARE THE OTHER KEY VENUES IN THE AREA?***

"There's a tendency for the more interesting smaller venues to get absolutely dwarfed by **Rock City**, which is obviously an excellent and legendary venue in its own right, but it does cast an impending shadow. There's a really crusty old punk venue called **The Old Angel Inn** that's been there for decades. When we were first starting out, we played a show there and I drank an entire bottle of cognac. We weren't invited back. Another key venue is an awesome 'arts cafe' called the **Chameleon**. It's hidden on top of a **Clinton Cards** shop and up three flights of stairs. The live room itself is basically a living room complete with sofas and a couple of fireplaces, it's pretty cosy… I've been to quite a few shows in there that have been cut short halfway through because the management were worried about the floor collapsing. When we first played there, the manager asked me if we 'jump around at all' during our show, I replied with 'err… no'. Luckily, I don't think he watched our set that was, by rights, almost exclusively spent jumping up and down. Little white lies…"

***WHAT'S THE BEST GIG YOU'VE EVER SEEN IN NOTTINGHAM?***

"I saw **The Dillinger Escape Plan** at **Rescue Rooms** a few years ago, which was not only the best gig I've seen in **Nottingham**, but the best gig I've seen period. There used to be a high balcony in the venue, and **Greg Puciato** climbed it and swan-dived into the crowd. The whole gig was heart-in-mouth yet absolutely mesmerising."

***WHERE SHOULD NEW BANDS BE HANGING OUT?***

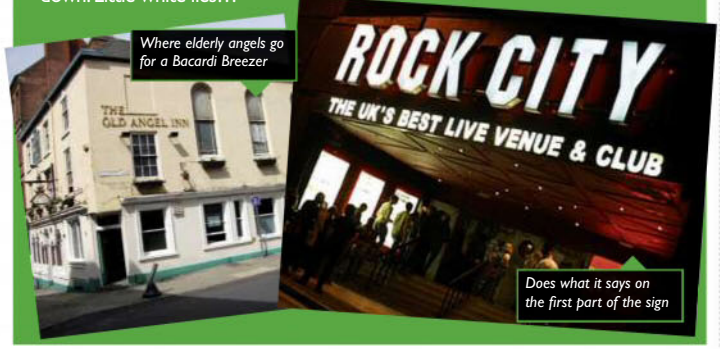
"**Music Exchange** is solely responsible for my perpetually empty pockets. I spend a lot of time in **Rough Trade**, too, it's a great place to eat bagels, drink beers and drool over vinyl. They also have a space in the bar for intimate gigs."

***ARE THERE ANY KEY FIGURES IN THE COMMUNITY WHO CAN HELP MAKE OR BREAK BANDS?***

"A friend of ours called **Marty Toner** from an awesome band called **Alright The Captain** is responsible for a promotions company called **Buttonpusher** that put on tons of shows at **JT Soar**. He's a really good person to get to know if you're starting up a band in **Nottingham**."

***TELL US ABOUT SOME AWESOME BANDS FROM THE LOCAL AREA…***

"Our brothers (and sister) in arms, **Deaf Bridges**. They're two bassists, a shit load of amps and danger. They really are awesome and, at the minute, they are criminally under the radar. Everyone should check them out! Also worth a mention are our good buddies **Mannequin**, a post-hardcore power trio that absolutely shred, and the loudest band I've ever heard, **Grey Hairs**."




# BOOKING NOW

***AGAINST THE CURRENT***
London O2 Academy Islington October 7, Glasgow King Tut's 8, Birmingham Asylum 9, Manchester Club Academy 10, Southampton Joiners 11, Cardiff Clwb Ifor Bach 12.

***AGNOSTIC FRONT***
Bristol Marble Factory October 1, Manchester Academy III 2, London Camden Underworld 3. Support: Old Firm Casuals.

***ALICE COOPER***
Plymouth Pavilions October 29, Swindon Oasis 30. Support: Michael Monroe.

***ALL TIME LOW***
Cardiff Arena February 10, 2016, London O2 Arena 11, Manchester Arena 12, Birmingham Barclaycard Arena 13, Glasgow SSE Hydro 15, Dublin 3 Arena 16.

***ASKING ALEXANDRIA***
O2 Academy Leicester October 20, O2 Academy Newcastle 21, Lincoln Engine Shed 22, O2 ABC Glasgow 23, Dundee Fat Sam's 24, Aberdeen Garage 25, O2 Academy Sheffield 27, Manchester Ritz 28. Support: Memphis May Fire, August Burns Red, In Hearts Wake.

***BABYMETAL***
London SSE Arena Wembley April 2, 2016.

***BATTLE BEAST***
London Borderline December 7.

***BEACH SLANG***
Norwich Owl Sanctuary January 19, 2016, Birmingham Rainbow 20, Manchester Star & Garter 21, Glasgow Hug & Pint 22, Newcastle Think Tank? 23, Leeds Brudenell Social Club 24, Nottingham Bodega 26, London Camden Barfly 27, Bristol Exchange 28, Southampton Joiners 29, Brighton Green Door Store 30.

***BEARTOOTH***
London Camden Electric Ballroom November 24, Bristol Thekla 25, Manchester Academy III 26, Glasgow SWG3 27, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 28.

***BLACKBERRY SMOKE***
O2 Academy Birmingham November 3, O2 Academy Sheffield 4, O2 Academy Newcastle 5, Manchester Academy 6, London Kentish Town Forum 8.

***BLACK STONE CHERRY***
Cardiff Motorpoint Arena January 28, 2016, Nottingham Capital FM Arena 29, Liverpool Echo Arena 30, Glasgow SSE Hydro February 1, Birmingham Barclaycard Arena 2, London SSE Arena Wembley 4, Leeds First Direct Arena 4, Manchester Arena 6. Support: Shinedown, Halestorm, Highly Suspect.

***BLITZ KIDS***
Manchester Academy III October 9, London Tufnell Park Dome 10.

***BOY JUMPS SHIP / ONLY RIVALS***
Bristol Louisiana September 28, Birmingham Rainbow 29, Leeds Key Club 30, Glasgow Garage (Attic) October 1, Newcastle Riverside 2, Leicester Cookie 4, London Camden Barfly 5, Manchester Sound Control 6, Cambridge Portland Arms 7, Oxford Bullingdon 8.

***BRAWLERS / ALLUSONDRUGS***
Norwich Owl Sanctuary October 4, Leicester Scholar Bar 5, Hull Fruit 6, High Wycombe Bucks SU 8, Plymouth Junction 9, Birmingham Rainbow Courtyard 12, Chester Live Rooms 13, Sheffield Bungalows & Bears 14.

***BRING ME THE HORIZON***
Edinburgh Corn Exchange November 25, Doncaster Dome 26, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 27, London Alexandra Palace 28. Support: Neck Deep, PVRIS.

***BULLET FOR MY VALENTINE***
Belfast Ulster Hall September 28, Dublin Olympia 29, O2 Academy Bournemouth October 1, Reading Hexagon 2, Guildford G Live 3, Aylesbury Theatre 5, Stoke Victoria Hall 6, Lincoln Engine Shed 7, York Barbican 9, Aberdeen Music Hall 10, Dunfermline Alhambra 11, Middlesbrough Empire 13, Carlisle Sands 14, O2 Academy Leicester 16, Bexhill De La Warr Pavilion 17, Folkestone Cliff Hall 18, Swansea Brangwyn Hall 20, O2 Guildhall Southampton 21, Ipswich Regent Corn Exchange 22. Support: While She Sleeps, Coldrain.

***CANCER BATS***
Southend Chinnery's January 11, 2016, Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms 12, Brighton Concorde II 13, Norwich Waterfront 14, Exeter Phoenix 15, Plymouth Hub 16, Bristol Marble Factory 17, Bridgend Hobos 18, Reading Sub89 19, Stoke Sugarmill 20, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 21, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 22, Manchester Academy III 23, Leeds Key Club 24, Glasgow Garage 25, O2 Academy2 Newcastle 26, O2 Academy2 Liverpool 27, London Tufnell Park Dome 28.

***CHUNK! NO, CAPTAIN CHUNK!***
London Camden Underworld December 2, Birmingham Temple @ Institute 3, Nottingham Bodega 4, Leeds Key Club 5, Newcastle Think Tank? 6, Glasgow Cathouse 7, Manchester Sound Control 8, Cardiff Globe 9.

***CITY AND COLOUR***
Brighton Dome February 18, 2016, Cardiff Great Hall 19, Manchester Albert Hall 20, Belfast Mandela Hall 23, O2 Academy Glasgow 24, London Troxy 26 – 27.

***CODE ORANGE***
Manchester Gorilla November 2, Dublin Fibber Magees 3, Glasgow Classic Grand 4, London Camden Underworld 5.

***CRADLE OF FILTH***
Nottingham Rock City October 16, Bristol Motion 17, Norwich Waterfront 18, Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall 20, Glasgow Garage 21, Manchester Academy II 22, London Camden KOKO 23.

***DAMNATION FESTIVAL***
Line-up: At The Gates. Leeds University Union November 7.

***THE DARKNESS***
Cambridge Corn Exchange December 1, Nottingham Rock City 2, O2 Academy Newcastle 4, O2 Academy Glasgow 5, O2 Academy Leeds 9, Manchester Academy 10, O2 Academy Birmingham 11, O2 Academy Bristol 13, O2 Guildhall Southampton 14, Bexhill De La Warr Pavilion 15, O2 Academy Bournemouth 17, O2 Academy Oxford 19, London Camden Roundhouse 20.

***DEF LEPPARD / WHITESNAKE***
Dublin 3Arena December 6, Belfast Odyssey 7, Newcastle Metro Radio Arena 9, Glasgow SSE Hydro 10, Birmingham Genting Arena 12, Nottingham Capital FM Arena 13, Manchester Arena 15, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 16, London SSE Arena Wembley 18, Sheffield Motorpoint Arena 19. Support: Black Star Riders.

***DEFTONES***
London SSE Arena Wembley November 21. Support: Architects.

***DESERTFEST***
Line-up: Electric Wizard, Elder, Conan, Raging Speedhorn, Witchsorrow. London various venues April 29 – May 1, 2016.

***DINOSAUR PILE-UP***
Birmingham Rainbow November 2, Newcastle Think Tank? 3, Glasgow King Tut's 4, Manchester Ruby Lounge 6, Leeds Key Club 7, Nottingham Bodega 8, Norwich Waterfront 9, London Tufnell Park Dome 11, Bristol Exchange 12, Brighton Bleach 13.

***DON BROCO***
Cardiff Tramshead December 3, Sheffield Plug 4, Edinburgh Liquid Rooms 6, O2 Academy Leeds 7, Exeter Lemon Grove 8, Nottingham Rock City 9, Manchester Ritz 11, Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall 12, London O2 Academy Brixton 13.

***DR. MARTENS STAND FOR SOMETHING TOUR***
Leeds Brudenell Social Club October 24: Twin Atlantic, Creeper. Belfast Limelight November 7: Lonely The Brave, Only Rivals. London Camden Black Heart November 28: Bury Tomorrow, Heck.

***ENTER SHIKARI***
O2 Academy Glasgow February 18, 2016, Edinburgh Corn Exchange 19, Nottingham Capital FM Arena 20, Bournemouth BIC 22, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 23, Manchester Victoria Warehouse 25, London Alexandra Palace 27. Support: The Wonder Years.

***ESCAPE THE FATE***
Manchester Club Academy January 28, 2016, Glasgow Cathouse 29, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 30, London Camden Electric Ballroom February 16.

***EVERY TIME I DIE***
Southampton Talking Heads November 6, Plymouth Underground 7, Bristol Fleece 8, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 9, Manchester Sound Control 11, Glasgow King Tut's 12, Aberdeen Tunnels 13, Newcastle Riverside 14, Sheffield Corporation 15, Birmingham Asylum 17, London Tufnell Park Dome 18, London Borderline 19, London Camden Underworld 20, London Old Blue Last November 21. Support: Superheaven, Muck.

***FALL OUT BOY***
Leeds First Direct Arena October 3, Aberdeen AECC GE Oil & Gas Arena 4, Birmingham Barclaycard Arena 6, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 7, Manchester Arena 9, Bournemouth International Centre 10, London SSE Arena Wembley 11 – 12.

***FIGHTSTAR***
London Troxy October 17, Southampton University 18, Exeter Lemongrove 19, Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall 21,

# JUST ANNOUNCED

***BIFFY CLYRO***
Hogmany @ Edinburgh West Princes Street Gardens December 31.

***DAMNATION FESTIVAL***
Latest additions: Primordial, Savage Messiah, C.R.O.W.N, Talons, Ghold, Ohhms, Undersmile, Tacoma Narrows Bridge Disaster.

***DEAF HAVANA***
Leeds Wardrobe November 19, Edinburgh La Belle Angele 20, Dundee Buskers 21, O2 Academy2 Liverpool 22, London Islington Assembly Hall 23.

***MAYBESHEWILL***
London Camden KOKO April 15.

***MODESTEP***
Leeds University November 21, Manchester Club Academy 22, Glasgow KingTut's 23, London Brixton Electric 25, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 26, Brighton Concorde II 27, O2 Academy Oxford 29, Bristol Thekla 30.

***RICKY WARWICK***
O2 Academy Oxford February 25, 2016, Portsmouth Pyramids 26, Exeter Phoenix 27, Cardiff University Solus 28, Wolverhampton Robin II March 1, Leamington Spa Assembly 2, London Kentish Town Forum 4, Northampton Roadmenders 5, O2 Academy Bristol 6, Cambridge Junction 8, Norwich Waterfront 9, O2 Academy Leeds 12, Aberdeen Garage 14, Inverness Ironworks 15, Glasgow Barrowland 17, O2 Academy Newcastle 18, Manchester Ritz 19.

***THE VIRGINMARYS***
Stoke Sugarmill November 6, London Lexington 19.

## BRING ME THE HORIZON

Dates added: O2 Guildhall Southampton October 31, O2 Academy Glasgow November 24, O2 Academy Birmingham 29 (matinee), O2 Academy Birmingham 29 (evening), O2 Academy Bristol 30.

PHOTO: ANDREW TIMMS

Norwich Waterfront 22, Manchester Ritz 24, Newcastle Northumbria Uni 25, Edinburgh Liquid Rooms 27, Aberdeen Garage 28. Support: Arcane Roots.

***FRANK CARTER & THE RATTLESNAKES***
Birmingham Rainbow Courtyard October 20, Sheffield Leadmill 21, Newcastle Cluny 22, Glasgow Cathouse 23, Manchester Star & Garter 24, Norwich Owl Sanctuary 27, Cardiff Clwb Ifor Bach 28.

***FRANK TURNER & THE SLEEPING SOULS***
Llandudno Venue Cymru November 5, O2 Guildhall Southampton 8, Falmouth Princess Pavilion 9, Glasgow Barrowland 13, Newcastle Uni 14, Nottingham Rock City 15, O2 Academy Birmingham 18, O2 Academy Sheffield 19, Bristol Colston Hall 21, Manchester Academy 23, London Alexandra Palace 26.

***FUNERAL FOR A FRIEND***
Cardiff Y Plas April 5 – 6, 2016, Manchester Ritz 8 – 9, Glasgow Garage 10 – 11, Birmingham Institute 13 – 14, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire 15 – 16.

***GHOST***
Leeds Beckett University December 12, Nottingham Rock City 14, Birmingham Institute 15, O2 Academy Newcastle 16, O2 ABC Glasgow 18, Manchester Ritz 19, O2 Academy Bristol 20, London Camden Koko 21. Support: Dead Soul.

***GHOST TOWN***
Manchester Sound Control October 19, O2 Academy3 Birmingham 21, Glasgow Cathouse 22, Leeds Key Club 23.

***HEAVEN'S BASEMENT***
Southampton Engine Rooms December 3. Support: Crobot, Scorpion Child, Buffalo Summer.

***IN THIS MOMENT***
London Kentish Town Forum January 21, 2016, Birmingham Institute 22, Glasgow Barrowland 23, Manchester Ritz 24. Support: The Defiled.

***LIFE OF AGONY***
London Camden Electric Ballroom March 17, Wolverhampton Slade Rooms 18, Manchester Club Academy 19.

***LONELY THE BRAVE***
Glasgow Garage November 9, Manchester Club Academy 10, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 11, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 19, Cardiff Globe 20, Bristol Marble Factory 21, Southampton Talking Heads 23, London Islington Assembly Hall 24, Brighton Haunt 25. Support: Black Peaks.

***MALLORY KNOX***
Rugby Village September 24. Support: We Are The Ocean, Go Primitive. O2 Academy Glasgow September 28, Manchester Ritz 29, Cambridge Junction 30, Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall October 2, Middlesbrough Empire 3, Cardiff Y Plas, 4, Exeter Lemon Grove 6, Nottingham Rock Circus 7, Norwich UEA 8, London Camden Roundhouse 9. Support: Set It Off, The Xcerts.

***MARILYN MANSON***
London Eventim Apollo November 19, Wolverhampton Civic Hall 21, O2 Academy Glasgow 22, O2 Apollo Manchester 23. Support: Krokodil.

***MAYDAY PARADE***
Exeter Lemon Grove January 26, 2016, O2 Academy Bristol 27, Norwich UEA 28, Birmingham Institute 29, Manchester Ritz 30, O2 Academy Newcastle 31, Dublin Academy February 2, O2 ABC Glasgow, 3, Nottingham Rock City 4, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire 5, Leeds University 6, Portsmouth Pyramids 7. Support: The Maine, Have Mercy, Beautiful Bodies.

***MEGADETH / LAMB OF GOD***
Glasgow Braehead Arena November 11, O2 Apollo Manchester 12, London SSE Arena Wembley 14, O2 Academy Birmingham 15. Support: Children Of Bodom, Sylosis.

***MOTIONLESS IN WHITE***
Belfast Mandela Hall November 23, Dublin Academy 24, Manchester Club Academy 26, Leeds University Union 27, Glasgow Garage 28, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 29, Birmingham Asylum December 1, Bristol Fleece 2, Southampton 1865 3, London Camden Underworld 4 and 6. Support: Chelsea Grin, New Years Day.

***MÖTLEY CRÜE***
Newcastle Metro Radio Arena November 2, Manchester Arena 3, Birmingham Genting Arena 4, London SSE Arena Wembley 6. Support: Alice Cooper.

***MOTÖRHEAD***
Newcastle City Hall January 23, 2016, Glasgow Clyde Auditorium 24, O2 Apollo Manchester 26, Swindon Oasis 27, London Eventim Apollo 29 – 30. Support: Saxon, Girlschool.

***MUSE***
Dublin 3Arena April 5, 2016, Belfast SSE Arena 6, Manchester Arena 8 – 9, London O2 Arena 11, 12, 14 & 15, Glasgow SSE Hydro 17 – 18.

***NO DEVOTION***
Cambridge Portland Arms September 28, Cardiff Globe 30, Leeds Key Club October 1, London Cargo 2, Kingston Fighting Cocks 3.

***NORTHLANE***
Bristol Fleece October 4, Birmingham Asylum 5, Glasgow Classic Grand 6, Manchester Club Academy 7, London O2 Academy Islington 8, Southampton Talking Heads 9. Support: Volumes, The Acacia Strain, Hellions.

***NOTHING MORE***
Birmingham Temple December 5, Glasgow King Tut's 6, Manchester Academy III 7, London Boston Music Room 8.

***OUR LAST NIGHT***
London O2 Academy October 27. Support: Palisades, Crooks.

***PAPA ROACH / FIVE FINGER DEATH PUNCH***
London Wembley SSE Arena November 28. Support: Devil You Know, As Lions.

***PARKWAY DRIVE***
London O2 Academy Brixton February 12, 2016, O2 Apollo Manchester 13, O2 Academy Glasgow 14, O2 Academy Birmingham 15. Support: Bury Tomorrow, Thy Art Is Murder.

***THE PRODIGY***
Nottingham Capital FM Arena November 24, Newcastle Upon Tyne Metro Radio Arena 26, Manchester Central 27, Sheffield Motorpoint Arena 28, Dublin 3Arena 30, Belfast Odyssey Arena December 1, Birmingham Barclaycard Arena 3, London SSE Arena Wembley 4 – 5. Support: Public Enemy.

***QUEEN KWONG***
London Camden Barfly December 11, Bristol Louisiana 12, York Duchess 15, Glasgow Stereo 16, Manchester Sound Control 17, Southampton Joiners 18, Brighton Green Door Store 19.

***ROLO TOMASSI***
Brighton Green Door Store November 6, Plymouth Tiki Bar 7, Bristol Louisiana 8, Manchester Soup Kitchen 9, Glasgow Stereo 10, Nottingham Bodega 11, Norwich Owl Sanctuary 12, London Oslo 13. Support: Employed To Serve.

***SKINDRED***
O2 Guildhall Southampton November 4, Norwich UEA 5, Nottingham Rock City 6, Manchester Academy 7, O2 Academy Glasgow 10, Leeds Stylus 11, O2 Academy Bristol 12, Birmingham Institute 13, London O2 Academy Brixton 14. Support: Crossfaith

***SLAVES***
London O2 Academy Brixton December 17, Tunbridge Wells Assembly Rooms 18.

***SLAYER***
Newport Centre November 21, Plymouth Pavilions 22, O2 Apollo Manchester 24, O2 Academy Glasgow 25, O2 Academy Birmingham 27, O2 Academy Leeds 28, London O2 Academy Brixton 30. Support: Anthrax, Kvelertak.

***SLEEPING WITH SIRENS***
O2 Academy Bristol February 29, 2016, Nottingham Rock City March 1, O2 Academy Glasgow 2, O2 Apollo Manchester 4, O2 Academy Birmingham 5, London Camden Roundhouse 6.

***STATE CHAMPS***
Manchester Sound Control September 23, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 24, London O2 Academy Islington 25, Southampton 1865 26, Kingston Hippodrome October 3. Support: Knuckle Puck, ROAM.

***THE STORY SO FAR***
Cardiff Y Plas December 1, Southampton 1865 2, Exeter Lemon Grove 3, London Camden KOKO 4, Norwich Epic 5, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 7, Birmingham Asylum 8, Manchester Academy II 9, Glasgow Garage 10, Newcastle Riverside 11, Leeds Stylus 12. Support: Turnstile, Drug Church.

***STRAY FROM THE PATH***
London Camden Underworld November 24, Bristol Exchange 25, Birmingham Asylum 26, Leeds Key Club 27, Newcastle Think Tank? 28, Glasgow G2 29, Manchester Sound Control 30, Nottingham Bodega December 1, Southampton Joiners 2.

***THERAPY?***
London Camden Electric Ballroom December 19. Support: Black Spiders.

***TREMONTI***
Birmingham Institute December 11, Edinburgh Liquid Rooms 12, Manchester Ritz 13, O2 Academy Bristol 15, London Kentish Town Forum 16.

***TURBOWOLF***
Glasgow Stereo October 27, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 28, London O2 Academy Islington 29, Manchester Academy III 30.

***TWENTY ONE PILOTS***
O2 ABC Glasgow November 4, Manchester Ritz 5, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire 6, O2 Academy Oxford 7, Birmingham Institute 9, O2 Academy Leeds February 18, 2016, O2 Academy Newcastle 19, Glasgow Barrowland 20, Manchester Academy 21, O2 Academy Birmingham 23, London O2 Academy Brixton 24 – 25, Nottingham Rock City 27, O2 Academy Bristol 28, Portsmouth Guildhall 29.

***VANS WARPED TOUR UK***
Line-up: Asking Alexandria, Black Veil Brides, Young Guns, Reel Big Fish, Metro Station, Memphis May Fire, Anti-Flag, August Burns Red, Attila, The Word Alive, Ghost Town, Rob Lynch, Fearless Vampire Killers, Forever Came Calling, The Rocket Summer, Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes, Trophy Eyes, ROAM, The One Hundred, In Hearts Wake, John Coffey, Twin Wild, Tigress, Boy Jumps Ship, Creeper, Allusondrugs, Never Shout Never, Moose Blood, Man Overboard, Beautiful Bodies, Heck, Kenneths, Black Foxxes. London Alexandra Palace October 18.

***WE ARE THE OCEAN***
Birmingham Asylum November 9, Cardiff Globe 10, Bristol Fleece 11, Norwich Waterfront Studio 12, Leeds Mine 13, Glasgow King Tut's 15, O2 Academy2 Newcastle 16, Manchester Sound Control 17, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 18, London O2 Academy Islington 20. Support: Tall Ships, Allusondrugs.

***WEDNESDAY 13***
London Highbury Garage October 30 – 31.

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# NEXT WEEK

ON SALE SEPTEMBER 30

PHOTO: DAN BOUD

WELL, THAT ESCALATED QUICKLY...


## EDITORIAL

***MY ROCK CONFESSION IS...***

**EDITOR:** James McMahon *(When I first met Gerard Way, my flies were undone)*
**DEPUTY EDITOR:** George Garner *(I still get stupidly nervous before doing any interview)*
**ART EDITOR:** Steve Beech *(Davyd from Bury Tomorrow got me hooked on Crunk Juice)*
**PRODUCTION EDITOR:** Ryan Cooper *(I once giggled when Jared Leto put his legs on me during an interview)*
**FEATURES EDITOR:** Sam Coare *(I once told Clown from Slipknot that The Gray Chapter is his band's greatest work because I was slightly unnerved at how close he was standing to my face)*
**PICTURE EDITOR:** Scarlet Borg *(I've got Rou Reynolds' brain in a shoebox)*
**ASSOCIATE EDITOR (REVIEWS):** Nick Ruskell *(I don't like the taste of whiskey)*
**NEW MUSIC EDITOR:** Jennyfer J. Walker *(I made Ronnie Radke cry)*
**DESIGNER:** Sophie Bland *(Reading Fest this year was my first-ever festival)*
**ACTING NEWS EDITOR:** Emily Carter *(I once cried at Corey Taylor and he was like, "Don't cry or you'll make me cry, too!")*

**CONTRIBUTING ED:** Katie Parsons *(I don't actually like Slayer)*

**CONTRIBUTORS:** Matt Allen, Steve Beebee, Mike Diver, Tomas Doyle, Hannah Ewens, James Hickie, Sam Law, Alistair Lawrence, James MacKinnon, Amit Sharma, Tom Shepherd, Dan Slessor, Mark Sutherland, Olly Thomas, Paul Travers, Ian Winwood, Rod Yates, Ray Zell.

**PHOTOGRAPHERS:** David Bergman, Chris Casey, Ian Collins, Carrie Davenport, Jeremy Harris, Paul Harries, Lisa Johnson, Andrew Lipovsky, Ashley Maile, Martin Philbey, Andrew Timms, Neil Visel, Dave Willis.

**THANKS TO:** Ali Catterall *(I threw up on Lemmy when I was 17 – 'Makes a change,' he muttered)*, Joseph Colley *(Lee from Feed The Rhino once shouted at me for being too drunk)*.

**INTERN OF THE WEEK:** Dom Littler *(Nickelback was my first gig)*
For all work experience opportunities, check out GoThinkBig.co.uk

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THE ULTIMATE

# ROCKSTAR TEST

# LZZY HALE

## HALESTORM

FREERUNNING IN HEELS AND GOING ON A DEXTER SPREE… WELCOME TO THE LIFE OF LZZY!

### ON ROCK'N'ROLL...

***HAVE YOUR BAND EVER GOTTEN INTO TROUBLE?***

"My little brother [Arejay, drums] and my bass player [Josh Smith] got super-drunk in a venue where the only way you can go up and down to the dressing rooms is in an old elevator. They decided to jump simultaneously as the elevator stopped, because they wanted to feel the inertia, and they got the elevator stuck in-between floors. The rest of us were in the bus like, 'Where are they?' then all of a sudden we saw fire trucks drive down and stop in front of the building. It took two firefighters to open the door so there was a little bit of space they could crawl out of (*laughs*). We were late to the next gig because of it!"

***WHAT'S THE MOST DANGEROUS THING YOU'VE DONE ONSTAGE?***

"You know I always wear heels onstage? Well, a couple of years ago I decided that my 'thing' was going to be climbing on my half-stack and jumping off it into whatever squat position I could, trying not to break my ankle… It got to the point where it freaked out my band so much that it went from, 'Woah, that was crazy cool!' to, 'You're being really stupid, why are you doing this?' So, I ended up stopping that."

***WHAT'S BEEN THE MOST ROCK'N'ROLL MOMENT OF YOUR CAREER?***

"I was singing at the CMT [country music] Awards, came offstage, and Lionel Richie was standing right there opening up his arms. He gave me a hug and was like, 'Hello!' and I started laughing 'cause of the famous song with the first line: *'Hello, is it me you're looking for?'* He then took my shoulders, looked me in the eye and went, 'You're a fucking rockstar! You're, like, the only rockstar here!' and I was like, 'Oh, thank you, that's awesome!'"

*Hello… is it points yoooooou're looking fooor? Because you just got 'em, Lzzy*

### ON YOUR OWN MUSIC...

***YOU COVERED GET LUCKY ON YOUR LATEST COVERS EP, BUT HOW MANY COPIES DID THE ORIGINAL SELL IN ITS FIRST 69 DAYS?***

"Man, it's got to be at least two million… It's a million? Good for them!"

*You were close… only a million out*

***YOU HAVE YOUR OWN SIGNATURE GIBSON GUITAR, BUT WHICH DECADE WAS GIBSON FOUNDED?***

"Ah, man... I should know this! Nineteen… 1951? I know that's wrong, but I'm gonna say it anyway! 1902? I'm not very observant (*laughs*)!"

*Wrong! We suggest you Wikipedia Gibson immediately*

***WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THE TRACK YOU RECORDED WITH DAVID DRAIMAN FOR HIS DEVICE ALBUM?***

"That's easy… Close My Eyes Forever by Lita Ford and Ozzy [Osbourne]!"

*Finally, a point on the quiz section! Good work Lita. Sorry, Lzzy…*

**"LIONEL RICHIE SAID I WAS A ROCKSTAR!"**

**LZZY HALE**

### ON THE HYPOTHETICAL...

***A WIZARD OFFERS YOU A FREAKY FRIDAY-STYLE SWITCH WITH STEVIE NICKS FOR HER VOICE, DO YOU TAKE IT?***

"Totally – are you kidding me? I just saw her perform on a TV show a few weeks ago – I think it was American Horror Story – and she did a really brooding version of Rhiannon, and I'm like, 'You know what, the girl's still got it,' so hell yeah! Now, would she want mine? That's the real question (*laughs*)!"

***YOU SEE INTO THE FUTURE AND FIND OUT WHICH DAY THE APOCALYPSE IS DUE TO HAPPEN. DO YOU TELL EVERYONE OR JUST KEEP IT TO YOURSELF?***

"My initial reaction would be to keep it to myself, because the people around me would panic, then try to do all this stupid stuff when, really, you should just live your life and then 'boom' it happens! So, I'd keep it to myself… or maybe I would tell, like, one other person. I don't think I'd do anything differently because what are you gonna do? You can't go into a bunker… it's not like a tornado warning, it's the Apocalypse!"

***YOU CAN GO FULL-ON DEXTER, KILLING ALL THE BAD PEOPLE WHO DESERVE IT – AND YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH IT ENTIRELY. DO YOU PUT YOUR APRON ON?***

"(*Laughs*) Hmm… that would be a fun project for when I'm off tour! Yeah, I think I would definitely try it out, as long as I don't have some severe mental issues afterwards… I think that'd be okay."

*We've got some clear plastic sheets lying about the office if you wanna borrow them?*

### SPIRITUAL HEADMELTER...

***IS IT BETTER TO BE THE ONE WHO LOVES THE MOST OR THE LEAST IN A RELATIONSHIP?***

"The one that loves somebody the most. I'd rather err on the side of 'putting it all out there' than be trapped in something and trying to figure out how to get out of it because I don't like the person as much as they like me. Plus, if you've ever been in one of those relationships where you're not really feeling it, but the other person is way into it, that's harder! 'Cause it's like, 'Oh, I've got to let them down…' and I don't like being the 'breaker-upper'. It's better to be like, 'I don't know what happened, I just love them so much, and they broke up with me!' Maybe that makes me a masochist, but I'd rather go all in!"

*We think it might be time to drop the 'Hate' from Love/Hate Heartbreak…*

### THE VERDICT

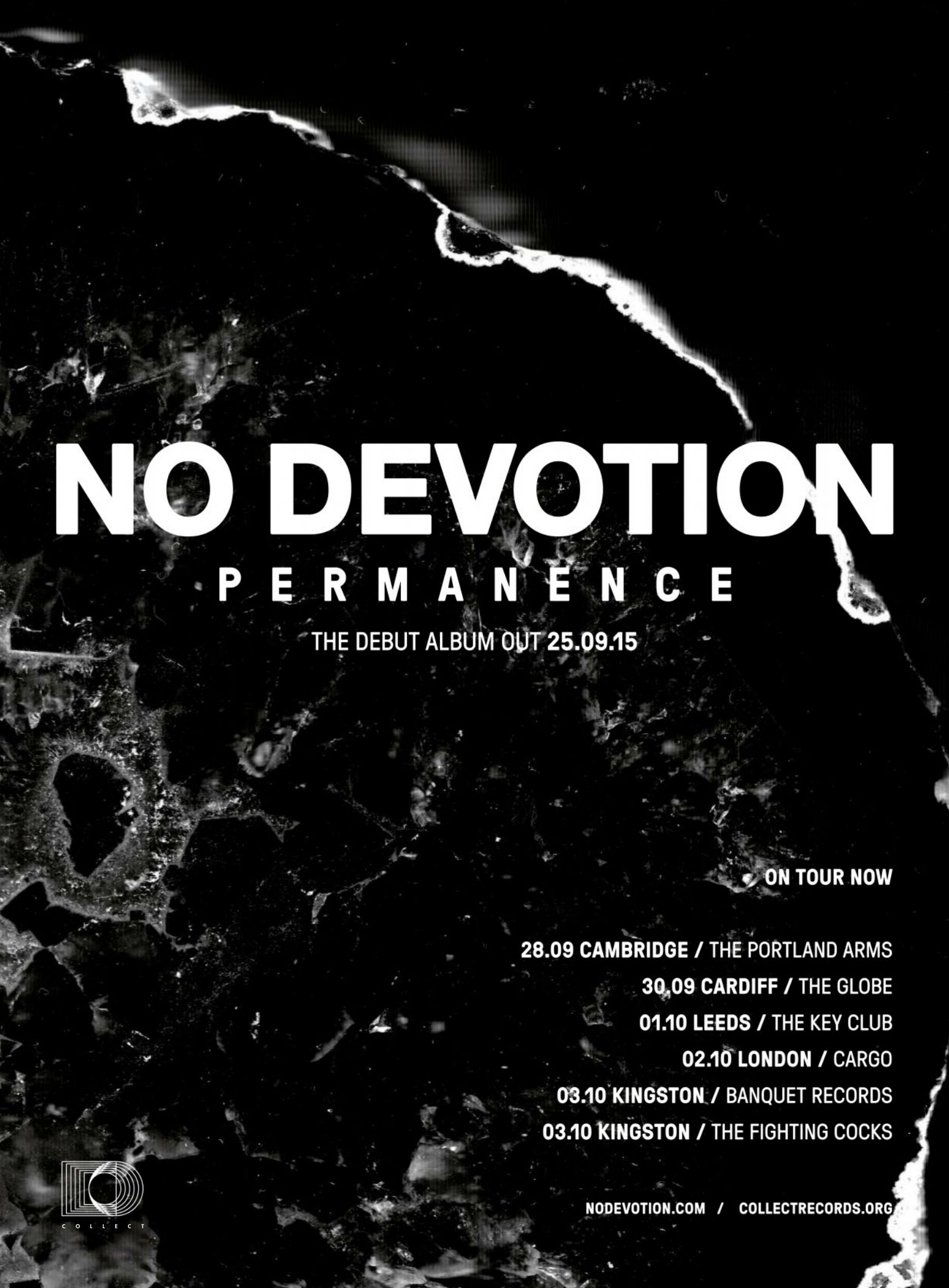
WELL, IF LIONEL RICHIE SAYS LZZY HALE'S A ROCKSTAR, THEN SHE MUST BE…

**SCORE 85%**

### THE LEADERBOARD

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | **LEMMY** MOTÖRHEAD | 99% |
| 1 | **OZZY OSBOURNE** BLACK SABBATH | 99% |
| 1 | **ROB HALFORD** JUDAS PRIEST | 99% |
| 4 | **MATT SKIBA** ALKALINE TRIO | 98% |
| 5 | **ICE-T** BODY COUNT | 97% |
| 6 | **MATT SORUM** | 97% |
| 7 | **GENE SIMMONS** KISS | 96% |
| 8 | **ALICE COOPER** | 95% |
| 9 | **SHIFTY SHELLSHOCK** CRAZY TOWN | 95% |
| 10 | **LZZY HALE** HALESTORM | 85% |
| 81 | **CHARLIE SIMPSON** FIGHTSTAR | 65% |
| 82 | **BOB MOULD** HÜSKER DÜ/SUGAR | 64% |
| 83 | **AUSTIN CARLILE** OF MICE & MEN | 61% |

WORDS: RYAN COOPER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